

55+ Trip

Our group is ready to hit the road again on a blues trip to Clarksdale.

Date: Thursday, November 8th
Time: 9:00 a.m. in the church parking lot
Visit: Delta Blues Museum
Lunch: Ground Zero
RSVP: Maralyn Bullion no later than Sunday, November 4. mbullion@bellsouth.net or 234-3299

Cost: Museum fee and lunch

Reservations are required for this trip.

Brenda West

55+

The 55+ luncheon is on November 29th at noon. There will be a doctor in the house: Dr. Jean Gispén, speaking on "Banishing Our Aches and Pains." The luncheon is catered, and reservations are necessary. Call Elizabeth Williston, 234-3821.

Caregivers Group

The Caregivers Group is meeting on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. in the small parlor. This group is intended for anyone engaged in caregiving: parents caring for children and adults caring for their parents, siblings, or others. Support, grounded in scripture and prayer, is provided in a group setting that honors confidentiality. For more information, please contact Dr. Kathy Knight or Deacon Penny Sisson.

Hispanic Ministry

The Hispanic Ministry says "muchas gracias" to the following people who have assisted us in a variety of ways this month: Leslie and Ben Banahan, Patricia Young's daughters, Cindy White, JoAnn Bell, and Amy Scruggs. We continue to appreciate the support and help each week of Dewey Knight, Ed Sisson, Rebecca Jernigan, Dan Costley, Patty Lewis, Robert Stewart, Ric Chandler, and Mariamne Young. We give thanks for the on-going ministry of the Rev. Bruce McMillan.

We rejoice over the birth of a baby girl, Emily Belinda to Erica Rodriguez and Sergio Tovar. We are delighted to see Beatriz Sanchez's family, and especially her new triplets, Sebastian, Daniel, and Anthony, at church on Sunday evenings. The triplets are growing, and the family is very appreciative for all the help they have received in the past two months.

St. Peter's parish thanks Yessica Campos Saucedo for another generous donation of paper products for the kitchen pantry.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Mark your calendars. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is moving to the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. Our prayer shawl ministry continues under the direction of Carroll Hightower. Many are busily knitting or crocheting these shawls, and we give thanks for this ministry. If someone is interested in learning to knit or crochet these shawls, please come to our next meeting on November 7th at 7:15 p.m.

Anyone who knows of someone who would benefit from receiving one of the shawls should contact Carroll Hightower or Deacon Penny Sisson.

Leap Frog

Leap frog is looking for a new treasurer. Duties are minimal and include bi-monthly check signing, occasional consultation with the Executive Director, and attendance at board meetings. A general knowledge of bookkeeping procedures would be helpful. Please contact Teresa Adams, 234-2411, 801-9698 or leapfrog@dixie-net.com.

St. Peter's Prayer List and More News

Intercessions

Charlie Sarthou	(brother of Lucy Turnbull)
Warren Turnbull	(aunt of Jenny Hunsicker)
Geraldine Gholson	(father of Katsy Gray)
Allen Whittlesey	(former interim rector)
The Rev. Murray Bullock	(brother-in-law of Clara Hunt)
D.L. Carter	
Jeanne Carter	
Doris Dailey	(mother of Theresa Knight)
Selene Benitone	(daughter of Janis Jones)
Cailan Duane Williams	(grandson of Lena Wiley)
Katy Stacy	(granddaughter of Onaye Farris)
Helen Popernik	(mother of Cindy White)
Edna Weems	(mother of Debra Weems)
David DeLeeuw	(son of Nancy & Sam DeLeeuw)
George Bailey	(relative of Fara Shook)
Max Hague	(cousin of Mary Ann Bowen)
Barbara Higgins	(cousin of James Herndon)
Carter Oswalt	
Herb Dewees	
Randy Williams	(brother of Sherry Jenkins)
Barbara Downey	(friend of the Jenkins family)
Bobby & Ann Roberts	(friends of the Jenkins family)
Colin Blanchflower	
Diann Coleman	(friend of Mary Ann Connell)
Stella Salmon	(mother of Caroline Mayo)
Kathleen McMillan Lane	(mother of Bruce McMillan)
Eileen Sapp	(friend of Sharron Sarthou)
Pamela Moorhead Peterson	(sister-in-law of Sharron Sarthou)
Wayne Frye	(father of Kevin Frye)
Mitch Blades	(cousin of Sherry Jenkins)
Elizabeth King	
Roseann and Bob Hudson	(friends of Kaye Bryant)
Mary Jo Ray	
Jesse Couret	(friend of Cindi Thompson)
Katie Burchfield	(friend of Cindi Thompson)
Ralph Watts	(father of Norma Watts)
Franklin Tatum	
Bill Weilenman	(friend of Andree Walker)
Neely Nasif	
Jo Dale Mistilis	(friend of Kaye Bryant)
Millie Meaders	(friend of Nancy DeLeeuw)
Edith Mabry	(mother of Forrest Hinton)

For the Men and Women of the United States Armed Forces and their families

Adam Gunter, Tommy Hooper, Richard Brooks, David Robison, Trey Bullock, James Lowe, Jason Hood, Justin "BJ" King, Chris Hankins, Joe Powell, Scott Wurth, Woodrow McGlothlin, Josh Carter, Jamie White, Matthew Hodge, Scott Caldwell, Field Thomas, Bobby Nicks, Soldiers of the 1/104 Cavalry, Tupelo, Stuart Lacy, Laura Colley, Bryan Ward, Hunter Duffy, Scott Scialabba, Thomas Jones, Andrew Butler, Scott Thomas, Courtney Bass, Ben Hazelkorn, Mark Gardner, Leigh Ann Clark, Frank Pace, Joe Mitch Balof, John Ferriter, Andrew Ferriter, Chad Morgan

Requiem

Allie Dean Tedford, friend of Don Newlin
Bobby Roberts, friend of Sherry Jenkins
Susan Day, friend of Lindsey Scruggs
Dr. Ben Graves, father of Janis Black
Matthew Langston, nephew of Don Newlin
Fr. Shaun McCarty, friend of Taylor Moore
Billy Harold Houston, husband of Adeline
and father of Meriwether Shelton

Friends at Nursing Homes

Azalea Gardens:	Chris Gates
	Betty Williams
	Ann Jennings
Hermitage:	Eleanor Mattern
	Vivian Page
	Mary Jo Ray
Graceland:	Mary Elizabeth Wells
	Mary McClain Hall

Adult Faith Forum for November

Sunday, November 4 - Please join us and welcome Bishop Masereka, retired Bishop of Uganda, and his wife for lively dialogue and reflection at the forum hour. Please bring your questions and thoughts as we reflect on ministry in Christ and our call to it within the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.

Sundays, November 11 and 18 - Using Sybil Macbeth's book *Praying in Color*, The Rev. Laura Gettys will be leading a two-part series on prayer. This creative class seeks to expand and deepen our idea of prayer. Do you love color? Do you hunger to know God better? Perhaps you are a visual learner, or a distractible or impatient soul, or just a word-weary pray-er? This class is for you! Come experience a form of prayer that involves the visual. No prior knowledge of the arts or prayer necessary! Come as you are to this interactive and colorful time.

Sunday, November 25 - As a Church and community we recognize fellowship and time together as integral to our relationships and closeness as a church family. The St. Peter's family knows the importance of caring and connecting with one another. We want to honor this and so we will be beginning our "Coffee Talk" Sundays to do just this - to simply chat with one another and have coffee - with friends you know and friends you have yet to know. No agenda, just ourselves . . . and a little nectar from the holy coffee bean! Coffee Talks will be one time a month and will take the place of the Adult Forum.

BISHOP MASEREKA: NOVEMBER 4TH

Retired Ugandan Bishop, Zebedee K. Masereka and his wife will be our guests on November 4th. He will make a presentation at the Adult Forum at 10:00 a.m., preach at the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist, and be available for conversation at a reception in his honor at 12:30 p.m. At a time when there is much talk of fractures in our Anglican Communion, it is important to establish relationships with Anglicans in other parts of the world. Since retiring as Bishop of the Diocese of South Rwenzori, Bishop Masereka has established the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation, whose main purpose is to bring comfort and sustenance to orphans of victims of the AIDS pandemic. For more information, you can refer to the Foundation's website, www.bmcf.org.

Let us give the Bishop and his wife a warm welcome and learn about the work of our Anglican Church in another land.



Leap Frog's Fall Semester Rolls On

This semester has been busy and beneficial for the students. At our Lafayette site we have launched a pilot program with members from the Psychology Department at Ole Miss called "Precision Training." The program is an intensive tutoring approach designed to help students become fluent in reading, writing, and math. We will have definite results by the end of the semester, although students are already showing improvement.

Members from Alpha Kappa Alpha, The Lambda Sigma Honors Society, and Kappa Alpha came out to our sites and hosted small parties, and members of Omega Psi Phi performed a step show for our Tuesday/Thursday students.

St. Peter's hosts annual Thanksgiving Dinner for University International Community

On Wednesday, November 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, we continue a tradition of inviting international students, faculty, staff, and their families to join us for the weekly parish supper - in the way of a Thanksgiving meal. Kitty Smith has graciously offered to help coordinate this again this year. She needs help, especially with donations of side dishes to go with the several turkeys she will prepare. If you can help, please call her at 234-3642, phone the parish office, or locate the sign-up sheet on the "Parish News" bulletin board. This celebratory gathering has become our principal Thanksgiving outreach for years. If you will be in town for the holiday, please consider helping, and bring your family to enjoy the fellowship. Thanks!

New Opportunities for Community Action AMOS Network

The churches involved in AMOS held house meetings at the end of the summer, and the Leadership Team has reviewed the data and selected two areas of community involvement for the coming months:

The Public Transportation Action Group will research current plans for public transportation, determine the specific hopes and needs of Amos constituents, hold a public action to communicate those concerns to local officials, and follow up to see that local officials address those concerns.

The Youth Action Group will work to improve the lives of the youth of Oxford and Lafayette County, focusing on two initiatives. The Summer Jobs Team will begin by developing a summer jobs program for the summer 2008. The Public Spaces Team will begin by facilitating the opening of a new safe public space for children, such as a neighborhood playground.

This is your opportunity to DO SOMETHING that will bring more opportunities to those in need and to promote justice in our community.

The next Delegates' Assembly will be held at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, November 8th, at T.O.M.B. Assembly Hall. T.O.M.B. Hall is on Hwy 334 north of the Hwy 6 overpass, down from Chandler Motors and across the street from East St. Peter's Church.

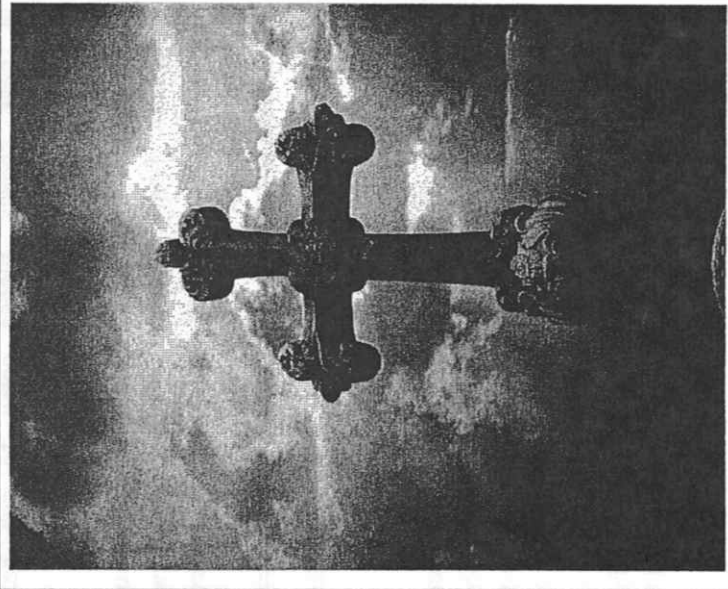
St. Peter's is a member church and all parishioners, whether previously active or not, are invited to attend.

Check out the web site www.amosnetwork.org for more information about AMOS.

SERVICE MUSIC CHANGES AT

11:00 A.M.

For years St. Peter's has used different musical settings during the varying church seasons. This is not new. Reviewing the many available options, the clergy and musicians agreed that our options were too narrow and much of the music too repetitive. Our organist, Steve Taranto, took this to heart and this summer composed some new settings, which we are using during most of October throughout the last Sunday of November. During Advent, we will change those settings, as we always have done. Sooner or later we will again cycle through those settings that many of you know so well. In the meantime, give thanks that Steve has given us new options. Learn them; they are very "singable." After a while, they may become as familiar as those "old favorites" that many of you know so well.



ECOM "Campus Ministry Corner" Greetings from Ollie

"All God's People Need A Retreat." I hear similar words or allusions daily that each of us requires some form of get-away from the familiar spaces and routines of our fortunate lives. Even if we enjoy our current, normal spaces, what tends to happen "on retreat" can be life-changing, if not life-giving. **ECOM FALL RETREAT "God Dwells Within Us" will be hosted for all parish adults and youth on All Saints' Sunday 11/4, 1:00-7:00 p.m.** beginning at Barnard Observatory on campus and closing with the 5:30 Holy Eucharist and Dinner at St. Peter's. *Parishioner Deadline Extension: Friday 11/2 online: www.ecomoxford.org/FallRetreat2007. Join the community of the Episcopal Church at Ole Miss (ECOM), as meditation leaders walk participants through various "exercises" while allowing good time for individual silence on campus and at St. Peter's.

Today, I thank God, you, the diocese, and the Episcopal Church Pension Group for my recent experience of a CREDO conference at Canterbury Retreat Center. There, I gathered with a myriad of clergy from throughout the states (led by a superb lay and ordained faculty) for reflection, workshops, exercise, consultations, worship, sleep, and fun. All pointed to improved planning for each of our spiritual, vocational, financial, and physical welfare and wholeness. I felt your presence and prayers as I was on retreat, and I was thrilled to share with them the blessings that you have been and are to my ministry. Now, I am re-charged and re-focused for the beauty that will unfold in the coming months as together, you and I glorify God using our gifts.

May our Fall and lives become rich and intentional with any times of pause, retreat, and silence, simply to hear God's still, small voice, loud and clear. "Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be." - Murray

God's peace and see ya around, Ollie+

Special Thanks

The Senior High Sunday School class would like to thank **Barbara Lowe and her family** for the donation of a futon frame and **Lane McCluer** for her donation of two comfortable chairs for our new and improved classroom. Thank you also to **Wil Oakes** for extra assistance with the project. The kids all put forth an extreme effort in painting this room. Stop by and check it out.

We are still looking for a second-hand coffee table, three or four poster frames, and a side table.

Amy Scruggs

Parchman Prison Ministry

Members of the congregation will travel to the State Penitentiary at Parchman on **Saturday, December 15th** to conduct an abbreviated lessons and carols worship service and hand out gift bags to 160 of our brothers behind bars. We will gather in the parish hall at 10:00 a.m. to pack the gift bags. Taking the church van and as many cars as necessary, we will travel in caravan style. At the prison's Christian Life Center, we will meet up with a delegation from Holy Innocents, Como, and the Rev. David Langdon, the Episcopal chaplain at Parchman. We will celebrate the Eucharist before going into the Unit and will return to St. Peter's around 6:00 p.m. We are not restricted to the number of people we can take. All are subjected to a National Criminal Investigation Center check for a criminal history. Please contact **Maurie White** or the office so that we can get you the NCIC form to complete and return. The form only needs to be completed once. If you cannot travel to Parchman, please join us to prepare the gift bags.

Men's Work Weekend

There will be a men's work weekend at **Camp Bratton Green the weekend of December 1st**. Please contact **Steve McDavid** for information, 236-1296 or stevemcdavid@bellsouth.net.

PASTORAL CARE NOTES FROM LAURA

Life Changes Fast - Keep us posted!

Fall is upon us with dipping temperatures and changing leaves. I love it! Thanksgiving is just around the corner and then Advent and Christmas! Whew! I am eagerly anticipating these holidays and times with you. Though I grew up in Memphis and know something of the winters here, I am looking forward to experiencing Oxford in the wintertime. I've always been a sucker for snow. I love how it falls and the way it sounds, and how it muffles the world when we get enough of it, which is indeed rare! So do not be surprised, despite our geography, to hear me whistling down the hallway the familiar jingle "Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!"

And so it is in that spirit, with the holidays soon upon us, that I would like to substitute this familiar tune with some new lyrics: "Let us know! Let us know! Let us know!"

The Clergy and Pastoral Care members are available for your pastoral needs, but we need to know as circumstances occur. Though we are indeed a variously gifted group, the ability to read minds is not one of our gifts! Please let us know about pastoral concerns as they arise. If you are unsure about what kind of information is helpful for us, perhaps the following might be useful. Please let us know about a major illness, admission to a hospital, an upcoming surgery date, a move from hospital into a rehabilitation facility, a transfer into intermediate care or healthcare, a serious illness or lengthy recuperation at home, the imminent death of a loved one, or the death of a loved one. Please call the church office at 662.234.1269. You may leave word with Cindy White or leave a confidential message on any of the clergy phone voicemails. Penny Sisson is best reached via cell phone at 801.1269 and Ollie Rencher at 801.5472. Your message will be responded to promptly and carefully. Please let us know (and snow)!

YOUTH MINISTRIES Growing Together in Faith

Another October full of pumpkins, pumpkins, and more pumpkins! There are several things to keep an eye out for.

The first weekend of the month is **Jr. High DOY weekend** at Camp Bratton-Green, **November 2-4**. Applications for the weekend are available at the church or on the diocesan website. These weekends are a great time and a great way to get involved on the diocesan level for our Jr. High youth.

November 16-19 will be the Sr. High EYC's fall outreach trip to Nashville. We'll be hosted once again by St. George's Episcopal and are looking forward to a great trip full of service and fun. Those interested should get the proper forms turned in right away. Call or email me if you have questions (615.944.4844 youthminister@stpetersoxford.org).

Another big event this month is **Happening**, which takes place **November 9-11**. This weekend, run by the diocese, is a tremendous spiritual experience for students in grades 10-12, and St. Peter's will be particularly involved with the one coming up. Our own Adams McDavid will lead the weekend, with another of ours, Jon Michael Person, observing as he prepares to lead Happening next semester. It's an honor and a testament to the wonderful people we have in our EYC at St. Peter's that these two have been chosen for such important diocesan leadership positions. We have a number of other St. Peter's youth serving on the Happening staff and going through the weekend as participants. Keep all of them in your thoughts and prayers.

Other regular EYC events, including Wednesday night activities, prayer breakfasts, and Serious Minutes will be going on this month, with a break Thanksgiving week. Keep your eyes on the online calendar to stay up to date on all things youth.

Keep Rockin',

Wil

The Challenges of Our Success

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is a vibrant community of faith that has grown from a small pastoral congregation into the second largest church in the Diocese of Mississippi. We are the church home to more than one thousand souls and are a shining witness to the gospel message in the growing community of Oxford, the University, and Lafayette County. We are successful in many, many ways. But we are also challenged by this success.

As we enter our Stewardship Campaign for 2008, *Building Investment in Our Future*, I'd like to spend a little time discussing those challenges brought about by our success and how we can choose to respond. Our average Sunday attendance (the accepted measure of the size of a church) has increased by 50% over the last eleven years, making us the second largest church in the Diocese of Mississippi. Our preaching, teaching, number of worship opportunities, outreach initiatives, campus and youth ministries, and pastoral care are admired by our Episcopal brothers and sisters, not just in Mississippi, but throughout the region and the nation. We have assembled a world-class clerical and lay staff, and the energy and zeal to expand our ministries is unbounded. We are certainly, "the Episcopal Church, at its best!"

The success created by our offerings and activities and resulting growth creates challenges for us. Challenges before us for next year require that we increase our parish's pledge income by 10%. This amount will fully fund the new clergy & lay staff, as well as the other ministries, activities, and outreach put in place last year as a result of your generous response to the call for support of Stewardship in 2007. This also tracks the expected growth in membership and attendance based on newcomer statistics and the normalized pledge growth St. Peter's has received in most years.

We are asking each of you to help us meet these challenges by your participation in our Stewardship efforts for 2008. If you are already supporting by pledge, we ask you to please consider at least a 10% increase in your pledge. If you are not pledging, or if perhaps you are one of our many newcomers, please make a pledge for 2008. We need everyone to respond and be involved in *Building Investment in Our Future*. Pledge Sunday is November 18.

Christ's Peace,

Dewey

KEYS TO ST. PETER'S

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Fax: 662-236-5416
administrator@stpetersoxford.org
www.stpetersoxford.org

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THE KEYS TO ST. PETER'S St. Peter's Episcopal Church



NOVEMBER 2007

Our Mission: "To share the love of Christ which transforms lives."

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Taylor Moore
Rector
The Rev. Laura F. Gettys
Associate Rector
The Rev. Ollie Rencher
Chaplain/Assistant Rector
The Rev. Bruce McMillan
Priest Associate
The Rev. Penny Sisson
Deacon
Cindy White
Parish Administrator
Anisa Drane
Financial Secretary
Lane McCluer
Director of Christian Education
Wil Oakes
Youth Lay Minister
Don Trotter
Choirmaster
Natalie Bottoms
Children's Choir Director
Steve Taranto
Organist
Teresa Adams
Director of Leap Frog Program
Calvin Harmon
Sexton

Vestry

Dewey Knight, *Senior Warden*
Lynn Wells, *Junior Warden*

Glen Evans, *Treasurer*
Debbie Bell
Robert Forster
Sarah Frances Hardy
Barbara Lowe
Stuart McCluer
Herron Rowland
Alan Spurgeon
Charles Wilson
Debra Young

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

THE FORMATION OF ADULT CHRISTIANS

Willow Creek Church, located outside of Chicago, is purported to be the largest church or at least one of the largest in the United States. It is a mega-church that has great influence on other Christians. Its founder, the Rev. Bill Hybels, recently reported on the results of an extensive study of its massive congregation. The leaders there have "spent millions of dollars" on developing programs that they hoped would help people grow in their faith. What they determined was that all of these programs had not lead to any real increase in parishioners' love for God or neighbor!

St. Peter's Church is a congregation filled with programs and ministries. The breadth of activity in our parish on some days is staggering. We certainly hope that our staff and the programs we sponsor increase the faith of those who participate. Yet if we had the means to conduct an extensive study of our programs, what would we discover about our "busy-ness" and our spiritual lives?

Pastor Hybels concluded that what they should have done is to teach new members "that they have to take responsibility to become 'self-feeders'. We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read the Bible between services, how to do the spiritual practices... on their own."

Laura Gettys and I are gathering a group at the end of the month to discuss the basics of Christian Formation. Will our time together result in more classes or programs? Perhaps so. The "Everyday Sisters" Bible study certainly seems, from all reports, to be an incubator of faith, not just another program. But what else?

Congregational researcher and writer Diana Butler Bass has spent years looking at small and medium-size churches. Her conclusions are similar to those of Willow Creek: "Congregations that intentionally engage Christian practices are congregations that experience new vitality."

In addition to programs, classes, or the like, what can we do together to foster more thorough *Christian practices* in order that we, the people of St. Peter's, can grow in faith and can be "self-feeders" when we are not gathered as a Christian community? Vital congregational life rests not so much on programs per se but on spiritual practices that include prayer, theological reflection, generosity, storytelling, discernment, personal relationships, and hospitality and leadership development. [The Alban Institute] We need to foster these practices in order to form adult Christians.