



KEYNOTES

December 2014

The Quarterly Newsletter of St. Peter's Church, Lithgow

Welcome to The Rev. Canon Albert Joy Ogle

The Rev. Canon Albert Joy Ogle, the 31st Vicar of St. Peter's, Lithgow, alighted from Metro North at Dover train station on October 11, 2014, bringing the Search Committee's task full circle.

I would guess that everyone at St. Peter's has had a hand, in some way, in this choice for our new Vicar. Whether you filled out the questionnaire, worked on the Search Committee, or are on the Vestry, you have helped the Vestry make its final decision to call Albert Ogle. Thanks go to each and every one of us, as we move into the future of St. Peter's.

Since our new Vicar's arrival, St. Peter's parishioners have been incredibly well-organized in making him welcome. From the train station, to his first weekend stay with Jim and me, to the delivery of an automobile loaned by June Felix, to a month's stay at the Reids' excellent guest house, and then on to the Tozers', Albert was put in the hands of the Transition Committee, consisting of Bindy Kaye, Sarah Stack, John Reid, Tim Mayhew and Lillian Corbin, who have been managing Albert's schedule so that he is neither lonely nor overwhelmed. Thanks to all!

Jim and I were fortunate to host Albert during his first weekend in Millbrook. I looked forward to this, since I had already met Albert a few times. However, I must confess that when he asked me if I had an iron and ironing board for pressing his vestments, I began to think my weekend might be spent



Lillian Corbin

in the basement. Not at all. Albert showed his customary ease, spending time in the basement ironing his own vestments, with the companionship of Jim, not me.

Albert wisely opted to ease into his new role, spending his first few weeks getting to know more about St. Peter's parishioners, and about the Millbrook area. He chose to celebrate at the 8:00 and 9:30 services on Sunday, October 12, but not to begin preaching until November 2.

October 12 proved to be a long and involved day for Albert, starting with his first two services at St. Peter's, followed by the Dutchess Land Conservancy Luncheon, where he met many more parishioners and local friends, and finishing the day as a guest at the Millbrook Music Assembly's concert at the Wethersfield Carriage House.

From what I've been told, our new Vicar has jumped right into the job, and has been meeting with staff members and various committees, getting up to speed on activities, and hearing and making suggestions for the future.

Several of these ideas are becoming reality, including a Thanksgiving Service, an Advent Series, and a joint Vesper Service with Grace Church, on Sunday, December 14. (More about these elsewhere in this issue.)

As if that weren't enough, Albert has also been involved in the renovation of the vicarage, our town

continued on following page

house condominium in the Village of Millbrook. Jimmy Crisp, of our Vestry, is supervising this job, but it appears to me that Albert is doing the lion's share of the procurement of flooring, appliances, paint, lighting fixtures, etc.—a full-time job in itself!

He has likened it to “drinking from a fire hydrant,” but he seems to be thriving on making new friends and all this activity, despite a few minor setbacks!

Albert's first sermon, on All Saints Sunday, November 2, was conducted under slight duress. Those of you who were there will long remember the evocative candlelight and the chilly temperature. Unfortunately, due to the power outage, no recording was made of this inaugural sermon. The service consisted partly of a moving reading of the names of our departed loved ones, as well as departed giants of St. Peter's past. As Albert said: “We stand on their shoulders.” It is heartwarming that Albert focuses on St Peter's history, and its people down the years, reminding us all that it is our faith community that matters, and that it is the constant. In his sermon, Albert reminded us that we are all saints of God. Good news and great responsibility!

Our new Vicar seems to handle duress fairly easily. He handled the power outage with aplomb, having had his real Baptism of Fire the week before!

It came for Albert when he was stricken with an intestinal problem, bringing intense pain. Thanks to the Reids' immediate reactions, he was very quickly brought to Sharon Hospital, where he spent four days.

The problem was diagnosed and resolved well, with the wonderful support of St. Peter's staff, wardens, and hosts, who showed up immediately and took charge just like a family would. I am very proud of the way Albert was shown OUR pastoral care during those days at Sharon, including the follow-up.

I think I can say without fear of contradiction that the reaction to this new, exciting, intelligent, easy-going, energy-charged, deeply spiritual, and fun-loving Vicar is unanimously positive in every way.

Over the next few months we will be hearing more about his passions (which now include St. Peter's church, which he claims to find exciting, nourishing and loving) and his mission in the greater world of the Episcopal church, about the roads that have led him here—including St. Paul's Foundation for Reconciliation (and St. Paul himself), and more, as well, about his passion for the spiritual dimensions of World Heritage Sites, which was the topic of a dissertation he wrote at Trinity College, Dublin.

Ed Johnston's only words of advice to me for Search Committee deliberations were the following:

1. You must find someone who falls in love with St. Peter's and with whom you all fall in love in return;
2. You must find a candidate who takes St. Peter's seriously. I humbly believe that with the help of the Holy Spirit we have found such a person.

Betsy Shequine

Advent Series

*A series of programs will be held in the Parish Hall
(except where noted) at 8:45 am on the four Advent Sundays:*

November 30: Nancy Vanderlee, St. Peter's Music Director, will take us through the season of Advent in song. To be held in the church.

December 7: Assistant Minister Cam Hardy will talk about family-oriented Advent preparations through the visual arts.

December 14: Celebrate the season with images illustrating the coming of Christ in the Medieval world of Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals and codices. Led by Church Historian David Greenwood.

December 21: Vicar Albert Ogle will share stories, prayers, liturgical practices, and folk traditions from his ancient Celtic roots.

From the Editors' Desk

Anyone who likes to read books about our religion—particularly somewhat controversial ones—will not want to miss James Carroll's new and very serious-minded book, *Christ Actually—The Son of God for the Secular Age*. (Viking, \$30.00)

Asked in an interview “Why does Vatican II matter so much, and what does it have to do with Christ actually?” the author responded that “After Vatican II, leaders of the Church were afraid of what they'd begun, and they froze—for decades. But with the arrival of Pope Francis, change at a very deep level again seems possible. *Christ Actually* attempts a look at Jesus Christ through the lens held up by history, which is the invitation we have from this surprising new pope.”

Carroll, who was once a Catholic priest, left the priesthood to become a writer. This book, he maintains, is “a look at traditional faith, but from an untraditional perspective.”

He says some memorable things—e.g. that the lesson of his book is relevant today: a story of “how savage war in the first century perverted the memory of Jesus Christ with lethal consequences down through the centuries until finally, in a twentieth-century war and its Holocaust, the true character of that misremembering showed itself.”

Christ Actually takes the question of the divinity of Jesus head-on, knowing that if he were not understood as God almost from the start, he would be of no interest to us. The book looks, afresh, at the most familiar stories of the four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—in answering the great last question: What is the future of Jesus Christ?

This book points the way.

One of Ours

Anyone who loves New York City, Central Park, and the works of Lewis Carroll—and, above all, those of our parishioners who have a child on their holiday list—will want to own at least one copy of Moby Mudge's absolutely delightful new book of photographs—*Alice in Central Park—Stat-*

ues in Wonderland by G.A. Mudge. (Fotobs, \$24.95) Previous rave reviews come from Alice herself, Daniel Webster, and (our favorite) Humpty Dumpty, who praised the book by saying “Alice in Central Park is the most complete book ever written about everything.”

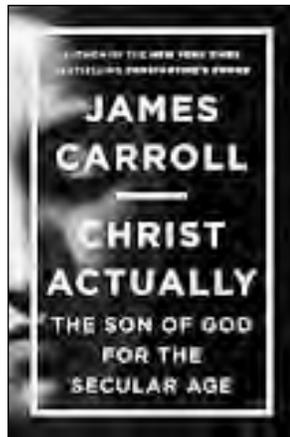
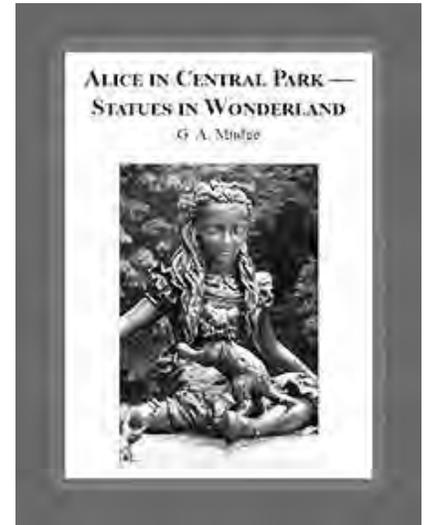
I'll add my own few words by praising the wonderful photos and the charming introduction to all the statues in Central Park, each identified by subject, sculptor, donor, and location in the park—with comments, telling the story of each statue through the

point of view of Alice herself—of whom there are two statues in the park (she's the only one so honored!). Meet, among other favorites, Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott, Beethoven, and a Dancing Goat, as well as Hans Christian Andersen, a Group of Bears, Duke Ellington, and (the most recent) Frederick Douglass. In a Preface, Moby suggests a way to study and understand the statues in Central Park—as Alice recommends, take six walks to meet the statues; the Mad Hatter suggests conversations with those statues. Moby goes on to suggest, in the voice of the statues, that visitors “sing a song, hum a symphony, mush a dogsled, read a poem and “attach personal meaning to each statue—to fall down a rabbit hole into the wonderland of Central Park, to step through a looking glass into a mirror world of inversion and imagine, pretend, dance, explore, fantasize, and discover.”

In my own more humble words, I simply urge you to own and love this book. My copy is already amply broken-in by a seven-year-old devotee of Alice—and of Central Park. Happy holidays to all book-lovers!

Ann LaFarge

Alice in Central Park has been favorably reviewed by *The Millbrook Independent* at themillbrookindependent.com/featured/alice's-adventures-central-park and is currently available at Merritt Books and directly from Moby (amudgemoby@aol.com).



A Report from St. Peter's Outreach Committee

Following are the organizations that St. Peter's Outreach has supported in 2014.

Dutchess County Community Action Partnership aka "The Dover Food Pantry"

The Dutchess County Community Action Partnership is situated on Route 22 in Dover Plains. Known to most of us as the "Dover Food Pantry," it primarily serves low-income individuals and families. This is a comprehensive assistance program—



unlike many other food pantries, overall needs are assessed when a client comes to the Pantry for food. The DCCAP offers case management, job training programs, and prescription assistance, in addition to the Food Pantry itself. The employees work directly with families to help them become more self-reliant, and they also help by providing the knowledge and resources to assist them through their difficulties, linking them with beneficial services such as Food Stamps and Medicaid.

Although the numbers vary year to year, The Dover Food Pantry typically helps about 600 households—or roughly 1,800 individuals per year. St. Peter's donates more to the Dover Pantry than to any other local charity.

Rural and Migrant Ministry Poughkeepsie, NY

The Rural and Migrant Ministry of Poughkeepsie is celebrating the 25th year of the founding of their unique camp. The camp is run each year in August at the Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Holmes, New York. It is a camp specifically intended for the 8- to 17-year-old children of rural and migrant families, with the intention that these children will have fun, learn, exercise, and experience a week-long overnight adventure in a loving, carefree environment. This bi-lingual camp typically hosts about a hundred campers, and the program centers on a multi-disciplined concentration in the Arts. They also encourage leadership and responsibility.



Hope, Justice, Empowerment
RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY

Among the forty-seven

adults who are required to run this program are the teaching artists-educators, counselors, nurses, and support staff. Many of the counselors are volunteers who are former RMM campers themselves and who enjoy "giving back."

Episcopal Charities

Episcopal Charities is the outreach arm of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. This charity supports parish-based outreach programs providing assistance and opportunities to children and adults in need. Every program that is supported by EC is free of religious content, thereby extending the reach of this charitable organization to potentially anyone who needs help. In addition to work in New York City, EC also serves seven counties in the Hudson River Valley, including Dutchess County. In the past, EC has supported small grassroots programs in addition to participating in large relief efforts such as the September 11th aftermath and Hurricane Sandy. Looking forward into 2015, EC is developing programs specifically focused on helping the rural impoverished, including migrant workers. The



good work of Episcopal Charities is enabled by congregations such as ours in addition to individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Episcopal Charities
A Commitment to Caring

Center of Compassion Food Bank

This ministry in Dover Plains is a satellite of the Sisters of Compassion in Westchester.

The Center of Compassion offers a free community lunch once a week through the winter, an affordable price thrift store, and a food pantry. In addition, the

Food Bank runs a unique "Backpack" program, which allows elementary school children to take home backpacks full of nutritious foods during the week, with the intention that the meals will last them over the weekends



when they have no access to school lunches. The backpacks are not labeled and all are different, their anonymity ensuring that no stigma attaches to the children who participate in the program.

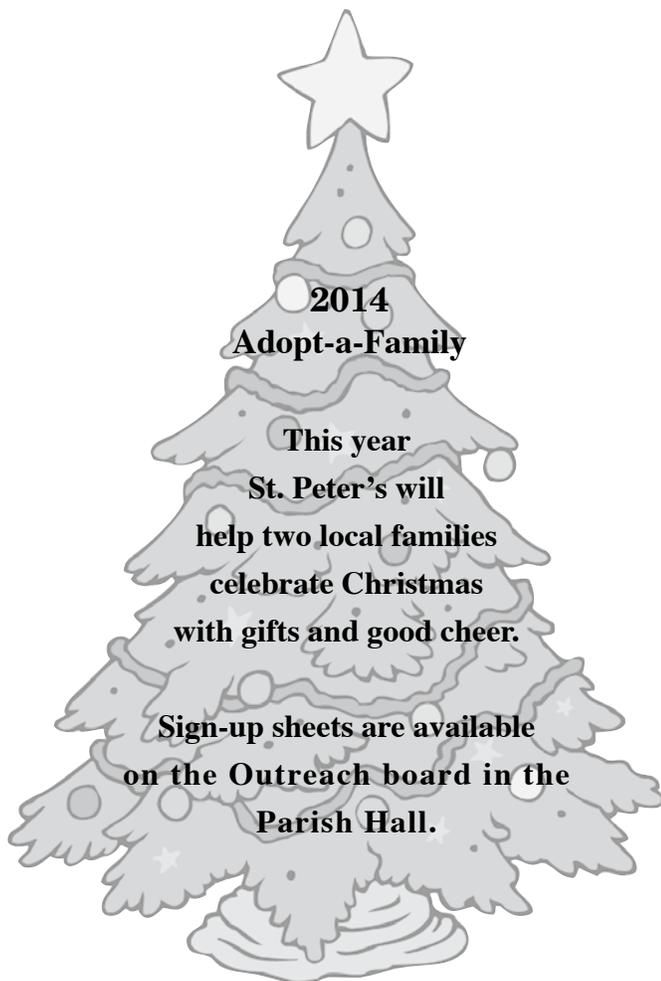
Additional Donations Given this Year:

The **English as a Second Language Program** at La Mision Episcopal Sanitago Apostal (La Mesa) in Dover Plains encourages Spanish speakers to learn English in an effort to better adjust to life in Dutchess County.

The **Grace Smith House** in Poughkeepsie, New York, was founded in 1981 and has continuously provided shelter and services for victims of domestic violence.

St. Peter's also supports our local **Millbrook Fire Department** and **Rescue Squad** each year.

*Julie Turino
Daniel Adams
Outreach Committee co-chairs*



Check Out These New Titles in the Parish Library

Recent gifts to the library, displayed in the children's section and suitable for parent-child sharing, include *Margaret Bourke-White*, featuring the arresting photos of this eminent American photographer. This book was found for us by David Greenwood. Passed on from the Holbrook Library at the Millbrook School come *Bible Stories for Children*; *Jesus*, based on the King James Version, created and sumptuously illustrated by Demi; *The World That God Made*, by Kathleen L. Bostron and Peter Adderley, a poetic picture book retelling of the Creation story; *Ancient Egypt*, actually a book of jigsaw puzzles about Egyptian life and art (please put the pieces back together in the book!); and *My Advent Calendar Christmas Book*, a timely story of the Nativity.

From our own Moby Mudge comes *Alice in Central Park—Statues in Wonderland*, a truly spectacular photographic review of the more-than-60 sculptures of writers, musicians, military heroes, literary figures and others that adorn Central Park, including Alice and the Mad Hatter as well as sled dog Balto of Iditerod fame. Moby has used his keen eye to capture unique details of the statues, and he includes brief informative descriptions of each. (see book review, page 3)

Do enjoy all of these.

*Barbara N. Lindsley
Parish Librarian*



submitted by Dave Schmidt

The Blessing of the Animals

October 5, 2014



photos
by
Lillian Corbin





Living Waters in Cuba

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church (SCAPC) is the church I grew up attending in New Orleans. My grandmother was a charter member, and I was baptized, confirmed, and (T. and I were) married there. SCAPC shares a covenant with the Cuba Council of Churches, which includes El Fuerte Presbyterian Church in Veradero. In October we traveled to Cuba on an SCAPC-sponsored trip. Our host in Cuba was Joel Dopico, President of the Cuba Council of Churches and pastor of Dora Valentin Church in Veradero where we stayed.

SCAPC has partnered with Living Waters for the World, an organization that provides clean, sustainable water and health education for communities in need of clean drinking water. Two years ago SCAPC took their volunteers, equipment and expertise to El Fuerte and put in a water filtration system, providing the community with clean water for drinking and cooking.

My brother, Thomas Favrot, had already been on a mission trip to El Fuerte Church. When he described the trip, he said, "It is life-changing." Those inspiring words encouraged three of his five sisters to join him on his next trip to Cuba. My sisters, Aimée Favrot Bell and Michele Favrot Murphy, along with Michele's husband, Kevin, T. and I, joined Thomas and his wife, Janet, and three others on the journey that ultimately changed our hearts, opened our eyes, and filled our souls.

Michele, Kevin, Aimée, T. and I were all first-timers. Thomas and Janet were veterans as well as Laura St. Clair, our team leader and Wes Alden and Cory Woolsey, Living Waters system experts. The team as a whole helped in all aspects of the mission, including cooking, home visitations, worship, fellowship, preaching, crafts for the children, and clean water distribution.

Wes and Cory had attended the Living Waters training in Oxford, MS, where they received hands-on experience installing and maintaining the water treatment system and their expertise was vital at El Fuerte. The impact on the health of the El Fuerte community has been dramatic, especially on the children and elderly. People start lining up at 6:00 am (two hours early) on the three days a week the water is distributed to the community. In addition to the health benefits, Living Waters has increased church partic-

ipation, especially at El Fuerte, which is known in the community as "The Water Church."

We brought more than 1,100 pounds of goods to Cuba, including Bibles, Christian books and materials for children, a new Schwinn bicycle, replacement parts and pumps for the water treatment systems, vitamins, a TV, a computer, clothes, 250 pairs of eye-



Lynn with El Fuerte Church cooks

glasses and cosmetics. (We all returned home with just the clothes on our backs.) All of these were graciously received with bright eyes from the children and tender tears of appreciation from the adults. Our driver for the week, Gustavo, had also requested a pair of 2.75 readers and Ivory soap. You cannot imagine the look on his face when I presented these items to him!

Three meals a day are prepared at the little church for anyone who needs it. My sister-in-law Janet and I were able to make jambalaya and gumbo for more than 100 people. The kitchen is outdoors under a shed and the stove is powered by a charcoal fire. It was quite an experience! What a joy it was to see everyone enjoying the meal, especially the children, who devoured all the cherry Jello and gummy bears! Around the table the two languages and two cultures shared one voice and one community.

The Cuban people were sincerely warm, friendly and generous. We had the opportunity to visit three elderly parishioners who were unable to come to church. They welcomed us into their homes and into their hearts and treated us as family. We prayed with them, recited Bible passages and even sang hymns. Even though there was a language barrier, we came together as one Body in Christ. When they

realized that seven of us were from the same family, they were impressed and even more embracing. It was family to family or *familia y familia*.

Before we left for Cuba, T. had been asked to preach a sermon on Living Waters at the main Sunday service at Matanzas Central Presbyterian Church. His words were translated beforehand and given to the congregation. This church was celebrating its first anniversary with Living Waters; the city is in the midst of a cholera epidemic and the clean water was much needed and appreciated. As the parishioners left the church, our group was hugged and the words, "We love you," were repeated over and over in both languages.

Historically, the Favrot family has had a presence in Cuba since the 1800s, which made our trip even more personally meaningful. Don Louis De-Clouet, whose mother was a Favrot, founded the city of Cienfuegos in 1819. We had the chance to visit his home and the church where his memorial service was held. In the evenings, we also enjoyed the wonderful Cuban music, rum and cigars, as we discussed the events of the day.



T. serving communion with the pastor and his wife at Matanzas Presbyterian Church

Each member contributed according to his or her capabilities and received blessings a hundredfold in return. We arrived as ten individuals, and left as one family. We strengthened the bonds between El Fuerte and "St. Charlies," as they pronounce it in Spanish. As I told our group, "They have so little, but they gave us so much." This was an experience that will live with T. and me for the rest of our lives.

Lynn Nolan

St. Peter's Cookbook ... *redux*



We thought we had sold all of the St. Peter's Cookbooks but, just in time for Christmas, we've discovered several more boxes full.

This book, a collection of St. Peter's parishioners' favorite recipes, has been highly praised and has contributed to many a successful dinner party. It was edited by Lorraine Alexander (formerly of *Gourmet*), illustrated by Jessica Tcherepnine and David Greenwood, and designed by Anne Gillis.

It makes a wonderful stocking-stuffer or a small "bread & butter" gift. The cost is still only \$20 (\$12 of which is tax deductible) and all proceeds go to St. Peter's Outreach programs.

The cookbooks are available on the table in the Parish Hall. Please leave either cash or a check for \$20 made out to St. Peter's Church (with "cookbook" on the memo line) in the box provided.

Vespers by Candlelight at St. Peter's

At 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 14, St. Peter's and Grace Church will hold a joint Vespers service by candlelight, followed by a chili and cornbread supper in the Parish Hall.

We are looking for volunteers to make chili, salad, and cornbread. Please contact Alex Sloan (asloan@sloanarch.com) or sign up on the sheet available in the parish hall.



An Invitation to Visit St. Peter's Website

If you would like to know what's happening at St. Peter's, please visit our website, stpeterslithgow.org—it's easy to navigate. Pertinent information, such as schedules for acolytes, coffee hour hosts, readers and ushers, is available. If you are interested in other aspects of church life, such as history, leadership, financials (it costs \$800 a day to keep the doors open), this information can also be found.

stpeterslithgow.org

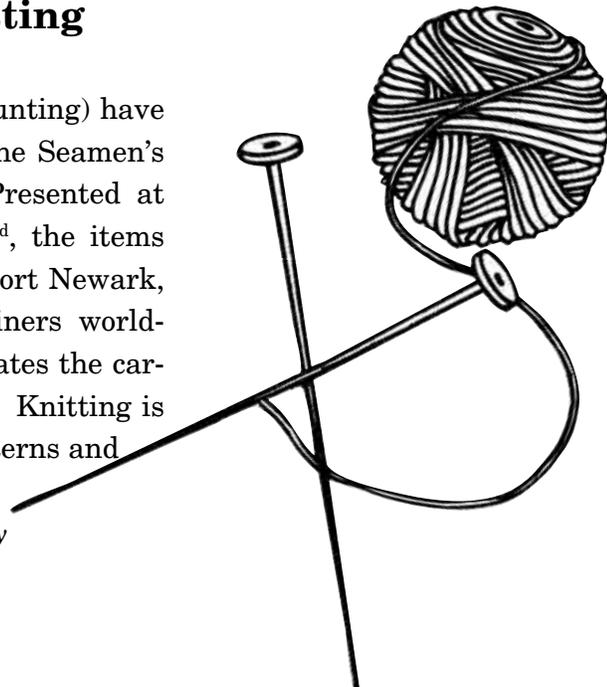
All 9:30 services are now streamed live. This means that, if you can't attend, you can go to the website, click on *Worship*, and watch the entire service live. You will also see links to prior sermons.

Lastly, if you have any comments or suggestions, I would love to hear from you.
Lillian Corbin (lillian@petercorbin.com)
Communications Committee Chair

Christmas-at-Sea Knitting

Over 23 hats and scarves (and counting) have been produced by parish knitters for the Seamen's Church Institute's annual program. Presented at the morning service on November 23rd, the items will be sent to SCI's headquarters in Port Newark, NJ for distribution to merchant mariners worldwide. This perennial activity demonstrates the caring we share for seafarers everywhere. Knitting is done year-long, with wool, needles, patterns and instruction available in the parish hall.

Barbara N. Lindsley



Remembering the Clergy of St. Peter's, Lithgow

It was suggested that before I lose my memory completely, I should jot down what I can recall of the clergy of St. Peter's, since I am now moving into that age when those of my generation are likely to do that. Now that I have established my credentials, let me say I first came to St Peter's at the suggestion of John Howley in the year 1974. The vicar was **Rhys Williams**, a quiet, thoughtful man of the cloth who lived in the old parish house with his wife Pixie. He taught archeology at Marist and he taught us Biblical archeology since he was intimately familiar with the hills of Galilee, the Sinai, the Dead Sea and the winding streets of Jerusalem. His sermons often started with a question and often finished with



an insight, but never quite an answer. I particularly remember his dramatizing the transfiguration by describing the huts that were built on the side of the mountain and the meeting with Moses and Elijah. Coffee hour was in the old parish house where we crowded around the dining room table. He was a man of gentle scholarship. He retired to Nova Scotia, where he ministered to several fishing villages. He left us a small gem of a book, *Let Each Gospel Speak for Itself*. It is in the church library.

Rhys's replacement was chosen by the Senior Warden, Rod Young, whose army background encouraged decision-making. He chose a bumbling, sweet minister who would preface any reference with "the poet" or the "novelist" even if mentioning Longfellow or Melville. His sermons were sufficiently insipid to arouse the tiny parish to rise up and ask for a search, and so began a period of supply clergy and lay readers taking the pulpit. Abbot Smith, a taciturn resident of South Millbrook whose vegetables could be found at Marona's, was our lay reader.

The search produced The Rev. **Warren Skip** whose prior parish had supplied a commodious house. He lasted but a year, we all assumed because the Old Rectory was simply too small as both he and his wife were six-footers. He went on to become chaplain and a teacher at Kent School, where he flourished.

Another search, and another period of supply clergy ended when we found, thanks to Bishop Wetmore (who was one of our supply clergy), **Brewster Yale Beach**. I well remember the Bishop's words when he called. "I think I've got your man," was all he said.

Many of our parish have fond memories of Brewster, whose gentle leadership transformed St. Peter's. He cast a wide net and drew in many followers, including

those who had not set foot in a church for years and perhaps ever. He started up a Sunday school, he inspired the new Parish Hall, he gave bewildering sermons on texts by Joseph Cambell and Carl Jung. He frequently admonished, "Please don't tell the people in the Diocese I said that." His tenure might be called a wrestling match with religion. He understood the Bible as divine myths intended to inspire us. He left St. Peter's a strong parish.

Our next search gave us Rev. **Edward Johnston**, who most of us revere as a scholar and as a thoughtful weaver of sermons. Having learned that the Old Rectory was not to the liking of every vicar, we were wise enough to acquire a vicarage in the village.

Ed's Bible class on Mondays and in NYC on Wednesdays (they continue at the House of the Redeemer) brought out details from a close reading that most of us had never considered.

We've been blessed with all our clergy; from all we were enriched; all left their mark.

Stephen Kaye



St. Peter's Church, Lithgow
PO Box 1502
Millbrook, NY 12545



The Christmas Services

Sunday, December 21 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00 am *Holy Eucharist & sermon*
9:30 am *Festival of Lessons & Carols for Christmas*

Wednesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve
5:00 pm *Sunday School Pageant*
10:00 pm *Candlelight Holy Eucharist, with choir*

Thursday, December 25 — Christmas Day
9:30 am *Holy Eucharist, with carols*

Sunday, December 28 — First Sunday after Christmas
8:00 am *Holy Eucharist & sermon*
9:30 am *Morning Prayer & sermon*