

# The Peppercorn

St. Peter's Newsletter

July & August 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the most widely used metaphors for the spiritual life is the metaphor of 'journey.' In many books, sermons, and even casual conversations, the Christian life has been portrayed as a kind of voyage where we pass into deeper knowledge and love of God, and more profound awareness of God's working in our lives and in this world. From The great Spanish mystic Teresa de Avila, who wrote of the spiritual journey in her classic *Interior Castle* to the English Protestant John Bunyan whose *Pilgrim's Progress* has been called the most influential Christian work except for the Bible, the journey has been depicted in many diverse ways. The end of the journey, though, is always the same: union with God.

Sometimes our own spiritual journeys do not feel like journeys at all -- it feels as if we wander aimlessly, with no destination in sight. Sometimes it feels as if we are taking a detour or that we have gone off track and into a rut. Sometimes the journey seems lonely, and at other times we are deeply aware of the presence of others supporting and upholding us on our way.

And sometimes a spiritual journey and a physical journey coincide. I am looking forward to such a journey myself, at the end of July and the beginning of August, when I will be traveling to West Africa, to the nation of Ghana. Many of you may remember back in December when Bishop Abraham Ackah, of the Diocese of Wiaswo in Ghana visited us here at St. Peter's, preaching at all three services, and celebrating the Holy Eucharist at 9:00. During our adult study time at Bible Cafe, Bishop Abraham shared pictures and stories of his diocese, which is the newest diocese in the Anglican Province of West Africa. Carved out of an existing diocese in the western part of Ghana, the Diocese of Wiawso is in a poor and rural area of the country. Most of the residents of that part of the country make their living as subsistence farmers or fishermen. Resources are scarce, education is minimal, and travel on the mostly unpaved roads in this area of Ghana can be difficult.

During his December visit to New Jersey, Bishop Abraham spoke not only to us here in Freehold, but also to our bishop and other diocesan clergy seeking assistance. For the majority of his people, who live in cinder-block shacks or mud and thatch huts, we Americans are unimaginably wealthy. Even a modest contribution from Christians in the developed world can go a very long way towards improving the lives of our brothers and sisters in Africa.

During his visit here to St. Peter's, the bishop honored me, and honored all of us by conferring upon me the honorary title of "Canon Commissary" of his Cathedral in Wiawso. The title 'Canon,' now appended to my name signifies that I am considered a member of his Cathedral staff (I won't be attending their vestry meetings, though!), In the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion the title "The Rev. Canon" is

comparable to the title 'Monsignor' of the Roman Catholic Church. The modifier 'Commissary' signifies that the bishop and cathedral dean will be depending upon me to raise funds and develop resources for his people, who are our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. I say that WE are honored by the conferring of this title because Bishop Abraham very specifically appointed me to this post because of the ministry WE have done together here in Freehold, especially in Outreach Ministries. This appointment now opens up a new opportunity for global outreach ministry for our St. Peter's Church community.

One way that I will be working to raise funds and develop resources for the Diocese of Wiaswo will be through a new non-profit corporation entitled NKABOM, a word that means 'friendship' in the Twi language of Ghana, and an acronym for New Jersey Kinship And Benefit Organization for Ministry. The working by laws of NKABOM state that

**The purpose of this corporation is:**

- **to support the service ministries of the Diocese of Wiaswo, of the Church of West Africa, a member of the Anglican Communion.**
- **to raise funds for the provision of educational supplies for the diocesan schools of Wiaswo.**
- **to support other educational ventures of the Diocese, such as the establishment of vocational training centers.**
- **to raise funds for the purchase and upkeep of durable medical equipment and medical supplies for the clinics and other medical ministries of the Diocese of Wiawso.**

As you can see, these are very ambitious goals. I will be working with other lay people and clergy of the Diocese to develop a strategy for achieving these aims. At a time when there has been so much friction and misunderstanding and disagreement in the worldwide Anglican Communion over issues of human sexuality and issues of authority, I consider it a great privilege and a wonderful opportunity to be partnering with our African brothers and sisters in Christ in this important (and non-controversial!) work.

My spiritual and physical journey will begin on July 27, when I land in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. From there I will take an overnight bus to Wiawso, to be installed as Cathedral Canon in a ceremony on Saturday evening, July 30. Bishop Abraham has honored me by asking me to preach in his Cathedral at their services on Sunday morning. I have been informed by very reliable sources that if the sermon is not *at least* one half-hour that the congregation will feel disappointed, even cheated. (I am not planning on transplanting this particular African tradition to St. Peter's! That's a promise.)

You can participate with me in this journey in several ways. First, pray for me. Although I consider myself a seasoned traveler, and Ghana is one of the safest and most stable countries in Africa, this will be quite new to me. Please pray for traveling mercies for me. And second, please enable me to bring a generous financial gift to Bishop Abraham to support his work. Since the non-profit corporation is not yet up and running, I am asking that you make a special one-time monetary gift by sending a check in any amount made out to St. Peter's Church, noting "Wiawso" in the memo line of your check. Special Offering Envelopes will be available in Church. You can send your check by mail to the Church, drop it in the collection plate any Sunday in July, or bring it by the Church office any time during regular business hours.

During this summer season when so many of us are traveling, I hope that you will join in supporting my spiritual and physical journey. The goal is the same, of course: Union with God.

Peace and Blessings,

Frank+



**Reminder:** If you wish to schedule any building space for an event, it must go through the church office. Please call the church office at (732) 431-8383 before planning an event. Thank you.

**A Little Bit of Humor for the summer.**

*I can't remember where I found this one. It's supposed to be a compilation of children's explanations about the Bible stories. I'm not sure if it is or not, but it's certainly good for a few laughs. Enjoy!*

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. God split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat. Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Light out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after

God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

Then God gave them the Top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Gristle and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say yes.

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one

was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Any way's, Jesus died for our sins then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

### **Summer Opportunities for Spiritual Growth and Renewal.**

#### **Enriching Our Worship**

**Some months ago**, Father Hebert gathered a group of members of St. Peter's, including other members of the staff, to consider ways to deepen and enhance our services of Holy Eucharist. Since then, the Rector's Committee on Liturgy and Worship has met monthly for discussion, study, and prayer. After careful consideration, the Rector and the Committee decided that during the nine Sundays of July and August, our Sunday Services will be taken not from the Book of Common Prayer, but from an authorized Episcopal Church resource entitled "Enriching our Worship."

Although these materials will be new to us at St. Peter's, most of the changes to the service will be quite modest. A few of the prayers, most particularly the prayer of confession and the prayer after communion will use more expansive language and imagery. The point of this change is simple: to deepen and enhance our worship and to strengthen our encounter with Christ. There will be plenty of opportunity for feedback and discussion before we revert to our regular services of Rite 2 Holy Eucharist in September

During the nine weeks that we use these materials, the members of the Rector's Advisory Committee on Liturgy will be inviting your thoughtful response as we seek to love, serve, and follow Jesus Christ more faithfully.

### **Summer Discussion Series** - *The Faces of Jesus in Freehold, NJ*

You are invited to attend a program where we will explore how Christ is present in our lives here in Freehold. Each week we will take a major theme of ministry and look at how Jesus ministers to us and how we bring that ministry to the community. The program will meet on Sundays between services extending over a 5 week period. However, even if you are only able to attend once you will be more than welcome. The program will be facilitated by Ted Foley, our intern from the School for Deacons. Our first session will meet on July 10. The topic will be - *The Jesus who feeds us.*

#### **Book Discussion**

"The book *Night*, Elie Wiesel's brief but powerful memoir recollecting his experiences surviving the Holocaust, will be the focus of a reading group that will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Tuesday, August 2; Monday, August 8; and Tuesday, August 9, here at St. Peter's. Topics to be reflected upon include the historical facts surrounding the Holocaust, the causes of the Holocaust, and the book's ultimate messages about God, man, faith, and the nature of evil. Most importantly, we will discuss what we as individuals and as a society can do to help prevent such atrocities from occurring in the future. Because of the graphic nature of *Night*, as well as a brief documentary to be shown which is both accurate and disturbing in its faithful recounting of the Holocaust, this reading group is open to adults and mature high school students. Questions? Please contact Jo Ann Price who will be leading the group at [ten6tsix@optonline.net](mailto:ten6tsix@optonline.net)"

**Summer Singers:** If you're interested in singing an offertory anthem at the 10:00 AM liturgy, but you're not interested in committing to a regular rehearsal, the Summer Singers is for you! This will be an ad-hoc group that meets at 9:15 AM to rehearse that morning's selection. Come and go as you are able. We will begin on July 3rd and go through the summer. Join us for a week, or the entire season!

## **Farmer's Market Nutrition Program**

You may be eligible to receive checks that you can spend this summer on fresh fruits and vegetables!!

The NJ Department of Health and Senior Services is concerned about nutrition. Therefore, they are issuing checks that can be spent on fresh fruits and vegetables. *Freehold Farmer's Market* - will have vendors that accept these checks. Starting July 8 through mid-October, the Farmer's Market is held every Friday at the Hall of Records Plaza from 11 AM - 3 PM.

Other participating farm stands include:

*Clayton Family Farm - 125 Monmouth Road, Freehold,  
The Farm - 3 Gully Road, Freehold, NJ  
Rifkin Farms - 98 Smithburg Road, Manalapan*

**Are You Eligible To Receive Farmer's Market Checks?** Most WIC recipients are eligible and Seniors (at least 60 years old) who meet the income guidelines are eligible.

### **What To Do Next?**

WIC recipients please contact your Monmouth County WIC office at VNA of Central Jersey (732-471-9301 or 732-224-6974)

Seniors should contact the Office of Aging, 21 Main and Court Center, Freehold (732-431-7450)

# It's time for FUNday School!

Be a part of our FUNday School program for 1 time or 4 times or all 8 times — we start at 10:00 on July 10 and go through August 28.

Children from 4 yrs. up to 6th grade are welcome to participate in FUNday School. Our "graduates", those in 6th grade and beyond, may choose to help with the program or may participate in the regular worship service. FUNday School time is from 10:00 to "The Peace" when we join our families in church. Registration is not required but if you do know you will be attending any or all of the days, it would make it easier for us to develop projects if you indicate your plans to take part in the program.

See you at FUNday School!

Return this registration form to Donna Devlin, place it in the offering basin, or get it to the office. If you would like to help with FUNday School for one Sunday or for several, please let Robin in the office (732-431-8383) or Donna know. — there's plenty of help available with projects and lessons.

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Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Age and grade in school (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Age and grade in school (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Age and grade in school (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/special needs \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Person (and relationship) to contact with questions \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_