

# NET Jan 96 Annual Report Issue

## RECTOR'S REPORT

### Letting the Light shine forth is an eternal priority

“Look to the Lord and be radiant, so shall your faces never be ashamed.”

These words of the Psalmist distill the nature of spiritual life in the gospel. God is indeed the source of light, and Christ is the Light of the world come among us. In this season of Epiphany, we gaze on the gift and are grateful. As we truly glimpse the Light, we cannot help but be radiant, for those on whom the light has shined will reflect that shining. So it is that the Christian life is not effort but gift, not striving but receiving, not measuring but thanking. Thanking, after all, is the meaning of Eucharist.

All this is true not only of our personal spirituality but also of our life together as the Body of Christ. The mission of St. Peter's, we have agreed, is to respond to God's call that we: “*Worship* God with gratitude and joy; *Nurture* Christians in discipleship; *Minister* as a welcoming community; and *Reach out* in mission to Cambridge and the wider world.” How can we hope to be faithful in all of that? By doing just this: Looking to God and being radiant!

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Report that you have before you is an opportunity to take stock of our stewardship of the giftedness we have in Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. In this issue of *The Net*, you will find a wealth of reports that I encourage you to read and study, for they are really testimonies to what God is up to among us.

As your Rector, I highlight several features of the past year and point to several emphases for the year to come.

**Welcome** to visitors and emerging members has continued but at a less intense level than in the past. The Welcome Team that is being formed will renew our welcome to all who come through our doors and seek to incorporate them into the life of the parish. It cannot be stressed enough that this is a ministry of the whole People of God, not of a specific group. So I encourage every parishioner to reach out to the visitors who come to us seeking God and community.

**House Group Formation** has received some discussion which, I hope, will bear fruit in several groups emerging in the coming year. A number of people report finding it difficult to know others personally and find their niche in the parish. Moreover, while membership continues to increase substantially, Sunday attendance increases at a slower pace. The missing piece, I believe, is house groups that can provide a middle ground between private space and the public space of the large church gathered. In addition, existing groups such as the prayer breakfasts and the Common Book Club can be strengthened, and ministry groups can deepen their life to offer more fellowship.

**Youth Ministry** needs vision and leadership as a number of young people now in their junior-high years are looking for ways to grow in their faith and engage the church community. The Youth Forum, established just last fall, is offering a Sunday-morning opportunity for discussion and learning, but we are missing the fun and adventure that a weekend-night Young People's Fellowship could bring. Tom Patterson gave important leadership in this area before he was called to become Junior Warden, and new

leadership needs to step in. Collaboration with other Episcopal parishes in Cambridge will be an important support to a new initiative.

**Stewardship** of time, talent and treasure made major strides this year with the leadership of the Stewardship Team, chaired by Susan Dowds and Astrid af Klinteberg, and the Capital Campaign Team, chaired by Bill Guthrie. Pledges of ministry were very substantial this fall, and pledges of finance exceeded previous years by a large margin, both in number of pledges and amounts pledged. This was especially encouraging in view of the substantial commitments made by many to the Capital Fund, now nearing completion. The coming year will inaugurate the fulfillment of our stewardship of the physical plant, as the Capital Fund is used to make major and long deferred repairs.

**Long-Range Planning** needs to be revisited early in 1996 in order to ensure that we monitor our progress and revise our long-term objectives appropriately. The Capital Campaign arose out of the Long-Range Plan, but re-examination of ministry goals must be ongoing.

**Leaders** in the parish are a source of great joy and vitality, and for them I give thanks. Wardens Judy Bibbins and Tom Patterson and the Vestry are a joy to work with. We all gratefully salute Steve Nill, who concludes six years of stellar ministry as Treasurer. Leaders of individual ministries have offered outstanding service, as is apparent from the accounts that make up this Annual Report. Leadership development is a major responsibility as we steward our leaders, and already we are planning a Vestry Retreat for February and a Leadership Conference for all ministry coordinators in March. I rejoice in the fine staff members who coordinate so much on a daily basis: Minister of Music Hazel Somerville, Parish Administrator Adrien Stair, Church School Coordinator Vyonna deMel, and Sexton Calvin Goffigan.

**Clergy Transitions** were a prominent feature of the year. Jane and I are grateful to you for your wisdom, enthusiasm and patience during two episcopal elections within four months of each other, probably a first in the Anglican Communion for one parish and one clergy couple. The subsequent departure of Jane as Co-Rector on account of our family finances was a difficult transition for us all. She and I rejoice in the time we were together as Co-Rectors; I am delighted she is still able to be with us for such occasions as Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve and Epiphany; and her ministry in Stoneham is going well. We miss Hal Obayashi, now assistant rector in Framingham, but working with Hal from being a seminarian through to his priesthood was a wonderful experience for the parish. I am grateful for the gifted priest associates we have in Jane, Elizabeth Wiesner, Raymond Pelly, David Larcombe and Cyprian Oh.

How does all the detail of parish life relate to the Light that shines in the darkness? I liken it to the lattice work through which one can observe the Taj Mahal on a full-moon night. Out on the lawns facing the grand monument, one rejoices in the full bath of moonlight on marble. Behind the lattice, the light receives a human patterning that is perhaps even more intriguing and just as lovely. Thanks be to God!

— *Titus Presler*

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Parish experiences Epiphany through changes

As I write this we are approaching the Feast of the Epiphany. Perhaps this colors my thoughts, for as I look back on the year at St. Peter's this season appears to embody what we have experienced.

There have been upheavals and changes in the parish since January 1995. Together we have awaited the outcome of two episcopal elections and studied the diocesan politics of two states. We have had to say good-bye to Jane Butterfield Presler as our loved co-rector and to our former deacon and now priest Hal Obayashi. Through months of anxious speculation about leadership of our church, the clergy, staff and vestry have struggled to accept change, to pay the bills, and to carry on the work of St. Peter's with "gladness and singleness of heart."

This fall St. Peter's flowered in unexpected ways. Ministries flourished, new parish leaders emerged, church gatherings prospered, and the parish responded fully to a stewardship campaign carried out with unprecedented style, energy, and grace. Dedication Sunday was an epiphany for St. Peter's, a singing forth of what the church is for its members, the living Body of Christ.

— *Judy Bibbins, Senior Warden*

## Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

### The Annual Meeting

To be held on Sunday, 21 January 1996, at Noon in the Undercroft

#### Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Reading of the Warrant and Eligibility Rule and Signing of Register, Declaration of Quorum
- III. Minutes of the Annual Meeting, 22 January 1995
- IV. Rector's Report
- V. Wardens' Report
- VI. Capital Campaign Team Report
- VII. 1995 Financial Review
  - Collector's Report
  - Treasurer's Report: Presentation, Discussion, Action
  - Auditor's Report
  - Trustees of Endowment Report
- VIII. 1996 Financial Planning
  - Collector's and Stewardship Team's Reports
  - Care & Repair Committee Report

Proposed 1996 Budget: Presentation, Discussion, Action

- IX. Recognition of Retiring Officers and Vestry Members
- X. Elections
  - Appointment of Tellers
  - Nominating Committee Report
  - Election of Officers
  - Election of Vestry Members-at-large
  - Election of Delegates to Convention and Region II
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Adjournment

CLERK'S REPORT

## Minutes of 1995 Annual Parish Meeting

The 1995 Annual Parish Meeting of St. Peter's Church was held on Sunday, Jan. 22, 1995, in the Undercroft of St. Peter's Church. Co-Rector Titus Presler was in the chair.

12:16 the meeting was called to order. Jane Presler, co-rector, gave the opening prayer. 12:19 The Warrant was read.

12:20 Eligibility rule for voting. The following signed the register: William Cowles III, Joseph Baratta, Louise Kennedy, Andrea Akers, Adrien Stair, Astrid af Klinteberg, Elizabeth Avery, Jonathan Powell, Frank Smith, Hedwig Pocius, Susan Dowds, and the Rev. David Larcombe.

12:24 Quorum declared by Henry Soones, there being more than 25 persons present. 74 people were counted as attending. The rules of order were announced, seconded and passed.

12:26 Clerk's Report. Motion to dispense with a reading of the minutes of the 1994 Annual Parish Meeting and to pass the Clerk's Report as presented was made by Sallie Craig Huber, seconded by Lois Bennet, and unanimously passed.

12:29 Rectors' Report by Titus and Jane Presler. The Rectors reported worship was the main priority of the last year with the organ repair and refurbishing an accomplishment. Morning Prayer was held on weekdays, thanks to Seminarian Jeanne Person. Men's and Women's prayer groups continue to meet weekly. Lay leadership is upsurging with people of vision coming forward with ideas and commitment. The possibility of establishing a middle school for urban young people had been broached, with the establishment of an exploratory committee and a draft Report to come before the Vestry. A capital campaign fund was being seriously considered, with preparations being made to present the Vestry with the information necessary to make a decision. June Johnson moved that the Rectors' Report be accepted; Alice Goodman seconded; the report was unanimously accepted.

12:37 Minister of Music Report by Hazel Somerville. Hazel thanked the parish for all the support during the organ repair and refurbishment. She sees herself as a builder and a builder needs good tools; the repaired organ is part of that. She Reported on teaching both the youth and adult choirs how to make a joyful sound to the Lord. Henry Soones moved to accept the report; Judy Bibbins seconded, and the report was unanimously accepted.

12:42 Junior Warden's Report by Caroline Banks. Caroline spoke of the evolution of her time on the Vestry as one from a small select group of leaders to the broad participation now experienced. She also spoke of her own evolution in leadership style from needing to do it herself to many volunteering and offering to help. Caroline was applauded and her report accepted.

12:47 Senior Warden's Report by William Guthrie. As always, Bill with great humor, gave thanks for the support he experienced and the gifts he received while serving. Applause indicated acceptance of his report.

12:54 Thanks was given to the following retiring members of the Vestry:  
Elaine Dennison was honored by Caroline Banks.  
Henry Soones was honored by Titus Presler.  
Romaine Perry, retiring as assistant treasurer, was honored by Steve Nill.  
Ruth Marshall, retiring as collector, was honored by Bill Guthrie.  
Caroline Banks, retiring as Junior Warden, was honored by Titus Presler.  
Bill Guthrie, retiring as Senior Warden, was honored by Jane Presler.

1:15 Nominating Committee Report by Caroline Banks. Henry Soones moved to accept the report, Alice Goodman seconded and unanimously it was voted to accept, after which the meeting moved to the voting. Henry Soones, June Johnson and David Larcombe were appointed to serve as tellers for the voting. The slate of nominations for officers was the following: Judy Bibbins for Sr. Warden; Tom Patterson, Jr. Warden, Steve Nill, Treasurer; Jonathan Powell, Assistant Treasurer; Parker Gallagher, Clerk; Pat Drake, Collector; John Hiscock, Trustee of the Endowment.

1:22 Ballots distributed. Ballot 1 – To elect officers as presented. Nominations from the floor; there being none, Parker Gallagher moved to close nominations, Henry Soones seconded, so voted. Bill Glass moved to direct the Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect unanimously; Henry Soones seconded, and it passed unanimously.

1:29 Ballot 2 – Open Vestry positions: Elizabeth Avery nominated for a three-year term; Lois Bennet for a three-year term; Betty Sawyer for a three-year term; Ross Elliott for a two-year term; Sallie Craig and Douglas Huber to share a two-year term; Frank Smith for a two-year term. Nominations from the floor; there being none, Parker Gallagher moved to close nominations, Esther Scantlebury seconded, and it was so voted. Bill Glass moved to direct the clerk to cast a single ballot to elect unanimously, Henry Soones seconded, and it passed unanimously.

1:31 Ballot 3 – Other Offices. Judy Bibbins nominated to be delegate to Diocesan Convention, one-year term; Tom Patterson nominated to be delegate to Diocesan Convention, one-year term; Caroline Banks nominated from the floor as the alternate delegate, seconded by Bill Bibbins. Delegates to Region II: Parker Gallagher, June Johnson, Barbara Pilgrim (in addition to the Wardens). Sallie Craig Huber moved to close nominations, William Coles seconded, and it was so voted. Henry Soones moved to direct the Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect unanimously, Alice Goodman seconded, and it passed unanimously.

1:34 Stewardship Reports.

Collector's Report by Ruth Marshall. The Collector Reported that for 1995, 76 pledges had been received to date for a total of \$82,110. Parker Gallagher moved to accept the report; seconded by Astrid af Klinteberg; voted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report by Stephen Nill. Among other things, the Treasurer emphasized that growth in receipts did not match growth of the parish in 1994. Motion to accept by Frank Smith was seconded by Louise Kennedy and unanimously voted.

1:43 The Audit was reported as completed for 1993 with a satisfactory conclusion.

1:44 Trustees' Report was introduced by Treasurer Stephen Nill and given by Trustee John Hiscock. The trustees have been repaid a loan extended to the parish. Other than that, income is down on account of lower interest rates. Louis Pelusi asked, Why is the endowment not just in treasury notes and bonds? The response was that more income is generated from present investments. Susan Dowds asked is there a provision for income to the church? The response was: yes, through the trustees disbursements. Tom Patterson asked if we could reclaim the funds now on deposit in the Diocesan Investment Trust to invest ourselves? John Hiscock responded that some of the funds were specifically bequested into the care of the Diocese to manage. Bill Bibbins moved to accept the report; Sallie Craig Huber seconded, and it was unanimously accepted.

2:00 Financial Preview of 1995. Stewardship Team Report by Astrid af Klinteberg and Susan Dowds. They emphasized that stewardship is a matter of how we maintain the life of the parish. In trying to improve our efforts, the team will seek information from other sources, such as looking at Christ Church's system. Susan Dowds offered that an organized campaign is the goal and that stewardship is about doing good in the world. Esther Scantlebury moved to accept the report, seconded by Adrian Stair, and unanimously accepted.

2:08 Care and Repair Report by Bill Bibbins. Detailed were the deterioration of the stone masonry, roof repairs, what has been done and what needs to be done. The report was accepted by acclamation.

2:20 1995 Budget Report by Treasurer Stephen Nill. Discussion of the proposed budget included: Possible cuts: where would cuts come from? Is there a message in the dropping level of pledges? Should not stewardship and the budget be higher on the annual meeting agenda? There was some discussion of particular budget items. Parker Gallagher moved to accept the budget, Pat Drake seconded, and it was unanimously voted.

Ruth Marshall suggested we consider using our collective time and talent to produce funds for the church.

2:36 Other Business. Barbara Pilgrim stated that she felt accused in the matter of the thefts that occurred during the Fall Fair. She made a statement she is not responsible for the thefts.

2:41 Motion to adjourn the meeting with thanks to the Rectors, Vestry and Wardens passed unanimously.

*—Respectfully submitted, T. Parker Gallagher, Clerk*

## ELECTIONS

### Nominations made for 1996 leadership positions

The Nominating Committee to present nominations to the 1996 Annual Parish Meeting includes the following members: Junior Warden Tom Patterson, chair; retiring Vestry member Esther Scantlebury; former Junior Warden Caroline Banks; former Clerk Ruth Marshall; parishioners Bill Bennett and Gayaura Pritz; and Rector Titus Presler, *ex officio*.

The committee stresses that in the case of all positions, additional nominations made be made from the floor of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Because the officer positions are always for one-year terms, those positions are open. Senior Warden Julia Bibbins and Junior Warden Tom Patterson are willing continue in their positions, and the committee therefore nominates them to continue. Treasurer Stephen Nill, now CFO at Videoserver in Lexington, has served the maximum of six one-year terms permitted by the By-laws. Asst. Treasurer Jonathon Powell, a financial analyst at H. P. Hood and first elected in 1995, is nominated to be Treasurer. At press time, the committee was seeking a nominee to be Assistant Treasurer.

Clerk Parker Gallagher wishes to retire after two years in office, but is happy to continue to serve on the Vestry, so the committee nominates him for a three-year term as Vestry member. The committee nominates Rachel Snow, an active parishioner since 1993, to serve as Clerk. Pat Drake, first elected Collector in 1995, is willing to continue and is therefore nominated for a further term in that office.

The terms of three Vestry members end this year. Anthony Coleman completes his first three-year term; willing to serve an additional term, he is nominated for a further term. Esther Scantlebury completes her second three-year term and thus retires for at least one year, according to the By-laws. Grace Muller completes a three-year term, but because she previously served as Clerk she wishes to retire. For these two three-year terms the committee nominates Parker Gallagher and Edward Jacobsen. Betty Sawyer, elected to a three-year term in 1995, wishes to retire on account of increasing time commitments to other ministries. At press time, the committee was seeking a nominee to complete the two years remaining in her term.

Tamra Blake, a vice president at Fleet Banking Corp., completes her first three-year term as one of the three Trustees, and the committee nominates her for a further three-year term.

The slate of nominations is as follows:

Sr. Warden	Judy Bibbins
Jr. Warden	Tom Patterson
Treasurer	Jonathon Powell
Asst. Treasurer	TBA
Clerk	Rachel Snow
Collector	Pat Drake
Vestry, 3 yrs.	Anthony Coleman
Vestry, 3 yrs.	Parker Gallagher
Vestry, 3 yrs.	Edward Jacobsen
Vestry, 2 yrs.	TBA

Trustee

Tamra Blake

Convention Delegates

Wardens

Convention Alternate

Lois Bennett

Region Delegates

Wardens, Parker Gallagher, June Johnson, Barbara Pilgrim

As in the past, the Vestry has adopted the following statement concerning eligibility for voting at Annual Meeting: “Any baptized person of the age of 16 years or more, who acknowledges in writing the authority of the By-laws of the Parish, and declares his or her intention to support the Parish by regular attendance at public worship and by a commitment of time, talent and treasure, shall be considered a member of the Parish and entitled to vote in its affairs.” *This acknowledgment and intention may be signified by simply signing the Parish Register immediately before the Annual Meeting is called to order. Newcomers and young people are encouraged to embrace this opportunity!*

— Tom Patterson, Chair

## WORSHIP

### ACOLYTES

#### Training and growth highlight acolytes' year

The past twelve months have seen much activity for the acolytes at St. Peter's: a change in directors, opportunities for continuing education, and the addition of new members to the team – as well as a full cycle of regular and special Liturgies.

The Rev. Hal Obayashi oversaw the training and supervision of acolytes until his call to be assistant at St. Andrew's in Framingham this fall. Shortly after his departure, Daphne B. Noyes, a 1995 graduate of EDS, assumed these responsibilities.

In spring 1995, the acolytes visited the Society of St. John the Evangelist, where they participated in the Daily Office, shared a meal with the monastic community, and were given a refresher course in serving at the altar by Rusty Page, SSJE. Another legacy of Hal's tenure is a compilation of notes to assist in instructing new acolytes and guiding those with previous experience. These notes will be updated and distributed periodically.

This year, the acolyte team welcomed new members Elektra Haviaras, Ada McMahon, and Adrien Stair.

In the coming year, we look forward to additional opportunities for liturgical education, more improvements to the vestry (or robing room), and continuing to build a strong team. We are grateful for the presence of our new members and thankful for the ongoing faith and commitment of all those who participate in this important and enjoyable ministry at St. Peter's.

— Daphne B. Noyes, Director

### ALTAR GUILD

#### Newcomers welcomed to altar service

The Altar Guild welcomed several new people to its membership this year. For the most part, this ministry, which is so central to our worship and community life, is an invisible one. Altar Guild members work in teams of two or three to bake the Bread, care for the fine linens, and come in early on Sundays or weekdays to set the Table for our weekly feasts — a deeply prayerful form of service which, in its solitude as well as its companionship, we find joyful and rewarding.

A special focus of the Altar Guild has been the special decoration of our church for our great celebrations. *Ad hoc* greening and decorating parties are a long-standing tradition at St. Peter's, and they offer opportunities for fellowship, fun, and creativity during our festival seasons. This year the Guild plans to organize teams of creative and adventurous members to take on these special assignments, and parishioners are urged to sign up for an hour, an afternoon, or a special season to help!

Treasurer Dorothy MacKillop reports receipts of \$97.30 for the year and disbursements of \$32.00, leaving a balance of \$1,347.80.

— *Lois Bennett, Director*

#### DAILY OFFICE

### Weekday Morning Prayer grows in appeal

Every weekday the ministries and concerns of St. Peter's are lifted up to God in prayer. This powerful ministry happens each morning between 8 and 8:30 in St. Elizabeth's Chapel during the service of Morning Prayer. The simple liturgy of canticles, readings, prayers and hymns is not only an important ministry of the church but is a wonderful experience for parishioners seeking a disciplined prayer life.

From the start a year ago, Morning Prayer has steadily grown. There are now eight individuals who take turns officiating each morning, and many more who just come to participate. If the idea of a time of serenity with God before your day's activities seems attractive to you, come and join us. We are always, too, looking for more people to serve as lay officiants. If you would like some more information regarding the opportunities to serve, please contact Andrea Akers at 441-5542.

— *Andrea Akers, Coordinator*

#### HEALING MINISTRY

### Laying-on of hands is offered monthly

In addition to the Parish Prayer Chain, the weekly intercessions offered through the Prayers of the People, and the prayers of the women's and men's prayer groups, the ministry of healing is offered through the laying on of hands on the first Sunday of each month. This occurs at the Sacrament Altar during Holy Communion for any who wish prayers for healing for themselves or for others. Serving in this ministry are Judy Bibbins, the Rev. David Larcombe, and Betty Sawyer.

— *Betty Sawyer*

#### READERS AND INTERCESSORS

### Large group assists with readings and prayers

At the end of 1995 St. Peter's found itself in the fortunate position of having a significant list of members who very ably serve to enhance our services by reading the lessons and leading the intercessions each Sunday. A total of 33 readers and 16 intercessors serve in rotation to carry out these important responsibilities. In collaboration with the Wider Mission Committee, there is a small group of individuals who read a lesson the first Sunday of each month in another language as a reminder that the Episcopal Church is but a part of a much wider Anglican Communion. The second Sunday of each month is designated as Youth Sunday during which the members of the Sunday School and Youth Forum do the readings and lead the intercessions. Anyone else who is interested in participating in our Sunday worship in this important and meaningful way is encouraged to contact the coordinator to have your name added to the list.

— *Sallie Craig Huber, Coordinator*

## MUSIC

### Growth and recognition highlight music ministry

For the music program of St. Peter's, 1995 was a year of steady growth in our skills and in our recognition from the community. There have been several concerts and events at St. Peter's that filled the church with music and with people that never knew about St. Peter's. Our choirs have regularly and eagerly provided music for the Sunday services as well as some outstanding evening events, in particular in Evensongs and in our well-received service of Advent Lessons and Carols and a recital of music before the Christmas Eve Service. We have worked hard, and we are having a good time in the work. We appreciate the many enthusiastic comments from the congregation. We are also grateful for the great encouragement and support of the Rector.

We have benefited from the visits of other groups to St. Peter's for some fine programs. Last spring we hosted about 85 young singers and their choir directors for the annual Royal School of Church Music Festival. The summer brought us two concerts, one from the Oriana Consort and one from a new group called the Mendelssohn Singers. In the early fall we were presented with a wonderful opportunity to host the orchestra of talented young people from St. Peter's Collegiate School in Wolverhampton, England. At the beginning of December, we were thrilled to have a full church to host the choirs and chamber orchestra for the University of Massachusetts.

After the major work done on the organ in the fall of 1994, we have an instrument that is in full working order at the moment. However, I do feel the responsibility to remind everyone that that was just the first phase of more work that will inevitably need to be done. We have also had the use of a fine piano and of a small chamber organ on loan from Harvard. All of these instruments have been used to enhance our worship.

As I look back at the year, I feel happy that our efforts have been appreciated, and I look forward to the year 1996, when we will continue our best to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

— *Hazel Somerville, Minister of Music*

## TAPE MINISTRY

### Tapes of sermons & services now available for homebound

Implementing a long-discussed proposal, the St. Peter's Tape Ministry got underway this past fall to tape the 10:30 service and sermon on a weekly basis. Parish Administrator Adrien Stair began the

taping, and the ministry is now coordinated by Kamal Swamidoss, with assistance from John Klein, Cecil Sullivan and other ushers. A recording-and-duplicating device has been purchased, and tapes are now on hand from about October on. Each tape includes not only the sermon but all the elements of the liturgy from the opening through the offertory anthem.

The main purpose of the tapes is to provide homebound parishioners with an opportunity for a more direct experience of the worship life of their parish community. Tapes can be distributed through casual visits and friendships as well as through the Visiting Team and clergy visits; just call Kamal at 225-6182. Another purpose of the tapes is to enable parishioners to purchase copies of services and sermons that especially strike them.

A historical footnote: The tapes are made from the sound desk in the Narthex, which coordinates the public address system for the sanctuary. This equipment was donated to the parish in 1942 by parishioner Hollis Gerrish, then a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. Although the system is scheduled for replacement by the Capital Fund, sound consultants have been amazed and intrigued by how well it still works!

— *Kamal Swamidoss, Coordinator*

## USHERS

### Newcomers welcome to usher

There are 12 active ushers. The duties of these ushers are: Arrive at 9:30 a.m. Front door opens at 9:30 a.m. Get bulletins from Secretary's office and insert Lessons and Psalms. Check with Ministers regarding service. Count the number of people in the congregation. Select two people from the congregation to take up Bread and Wine. Let the Minister know how many people are in the congregation. Take up the collection. Usher people to communion. Children go downstairs before Sermon and return after Nicene Creed. After the service, ushers remain in the Narthex and check itmes in pews. For those interested in joining, please contact any one of the ushers.

— *Len Jackson, Coordinator*

# EDUCATION

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Sunday Forums are success

Adult education continues to be a priority at St. Peter's as a way of encouraging spiritual growth, understanding and discipleship among parish members. The expansion of the Education Hour that was made possible beginning in September 1994 by moving the later service to 10:30 encouraged the development of the Sunday Forum in addition to the weekly Bible study, *Digesting the Word*.

Sunday Forums included a variety of offerings: *Movements of the Spirit*, led by Titus Presler, was based on a *Boston Globe* series on the explosion of global pentecostalism. *Spiritual Classics*, led by Jane Butterfield, was a discussion series based on readings by such figures as Evelyn Underhill, Bernard of Clairvaux, and C. S. Lewis. Early fall featured *God's Money, Our Faith*, a discussion of stewardship led by the Stewardship Team member Adrien Stair. Hal Obayashi presented *Christ and Culture in Japanese Christianity*, while visiting missionaries Richard and Martha Menees presented *A Mission in South Africa*.

Mid-October and November featured a well-received series presented by Priest Associate Raymond Pelly, *Choosing Life: Coping with and Recovering from Tragedy*, based on a book he is currently writing. *Journeys in Christ* in Advent highlighted personal accounts by parishioners Elizabeth Avery, Cliff Haughn, Tom Patterson and Esther Scantlebury of their their beginnings and growth in Christian faith and life.

Sheer lack of space and the lack of clergy leadership as the Rector focused on the Youth Forum contributed to the difficulty of continuing *Digesting the Word*, the Sunday-morning Bible study that had met without interruption (except on Easter Sunday!), for four continuous years. It has been suspended for a time but may resume in the summer months.

Midweek Forum on Wednesdays was offered intermittently. The major focus in early 1995 was *Continuing the Dialogue: The House of Bishops' Pastoral Study Document on Human Sexuality*. Attendance was regular and committed, and, although participants did not always agree in their conclusions, all agreed that the series helped them listen to one another. Forums were also offered on stewardship and on the ministry of visiting, and an Inquirers' Class began meeting in October.

Adult education leadership continues develop on an *ad hoc* basis in consultation with the clergy. In 1996 we hope for the organization of another team to develop plans on a longer-term basis.

— Titus Presler, Rector

## CHURCH SCHOOL

### Children and teachers have active year

For the 1994-95 school year, the Church School used the Chalice Year Episcopal Children's Curriculum. The number of children registered was 24. Vyonna de Mel, Peter Haines and Gayaura Pritz teach pre-school/Kingergarten, Primary and Intermediate classes respectively. Teachers meet every second Sunday during the coffee hour.

The Church School begins at 9:15 a.m. with a short children's worship. We formed a team to lead the worship on different Sundays. They are: Rev. David Larcombe, Gayaura Pritz, Astrid af Klinteberg, Rev. Titus Presler, Tacara Soones, Electra Haviaras and Vyonna de Mel. Please feel free to walk into the Children's Chapel to observe or to be a part of this worship. Every second Sunday during the 10:30 worship service, children read the lessons, offer Prayers of the people, and bring bread, wine and offerings to the altar.

Beginning in the Lenten season, children were given a Treasure Box to collect money at home for the Church School Missionary Offering, which was devoted to the Province of West Africa in 1995. To celebrate Easter, children made butterflies and had an egg hunt. On Pentecost (June 4) the church school children sponsored the coffee hour with a special birthday cake and dedicated and blessed the special clay project which was done under the supervision of Peter Haines. It's a panorama of the story of God beginning with creation and continuing through St. Peter's healing of the lame man.

Father's Day (June 18) was the church school awards presentation. Five children who graduated from Intermediate class received an African Study Bible. On the same day children hosted an all Parish Picnic at Waverly Oaks. At that picnic the ESL class members received their certificates.

The University Lutheran Church hosted an Ecumenical Vacation Bible School during the summer. From our church school Julian Snow and Viloet King joined this VBS.

October 22 was the Children's Sabbath. Children were prominent during the 10:30 service. Our annual Christmas project "Bring a Gift to Baby Jesus" was begun on this day. By December 10 we collected 55 Christmas gifts for children staying in the Hildebrand and TWCA shelters. Our thanks to the Episcopal Divinity School community for being a part of the project by donating some of the gifts.

Annual Halloween Service and Party were held on October 31. K. Jeanne Person led the service. We had a good turnout of 35 people. Most of them came in costume and had a delicious spaghetti dinner after the service. The first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3, children made 12 beautiful advent wreaths and sold them to cover the cost of supplies. Most of the church school children were a part of the Christmas Eve pageant during the Gospel reading.

During this year a very special thing happened in my life. We adopted our baby daughter Chirusha from Sri Lanka. Chitral and I had to leave for Sri Lanka on March 31 after we heard about the baby. We brought Chirusha to this country on August 4. Chirusha is truly a blessing and we give thanks to God for her. Jeanne Person took over my position as Church School Coordinator during that time, and she has done a wonderful job in my absence. My sincere thanks to Jeanne, Peter, Gayaura, Jane and Titus for all their support and understanding. I would like to thank all parents who bring their children to church school. We could not be successful without your help. I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, healthy, and blessed 1996.

— *Vyonni de Mel, Church School Coordinator*

## HISTORIANS

### Sesquicentennial history is being prepared

When St. Peter's was planning its 150th Anniversary in 1992, it was decided to prepare a history of the parish. Fortunately, we have an excellent centennial history of St. Peter's, written by Bessie Small in 1942 for the 100th Anniversary, so our task is to record the following fifty years. Gloria Jackson, Barbara Pilgrim and Ruth Marshall formed a committee, and started the research. In order to make the history as comprehensive as possible, old newsletters and bulletins are being checked. This has proven to be a monumental and time-consuming project, so if there are any parishioners who are interested, and have time to give to help in our research, we would welcome their assistance. Just contact Gloria, Barbara or Ruth.

Also, we are collecting historical resources for our archives. This includes old photos, newsletters, reports, flyers, programs, etc. So look in your attics and closets, and if you have any items that you would like to donate, or to lend for photocopying, we would appreciate receiving them. At present we have on loan from Hollis Gerrish a wealth of material that has been invaluable.

— *Ruth Marshall, Parish Historian*

## LIBRARY

### Books are catalogued and ready to check out

Our library collection was created from donations made by parishioners. During 1994-95 Betty Sawyer and I catalogued and organized recently contributed books for St. Peter's Library. We received a generous gift of eleven books from the Rev. Elizabeth Wiesner in March 1995. A book plate with her name on it was put in the front of each volume.

Our church library is a valuable resource, and we hope many of you will use it. If any one has a religious book that they would like to give to the library, please contact Suzanne Reed, 497-6728. We will be glad to put a book plate with your name on it in the front of your gift.

We have seven categories in our library: Biblical Studies (white dots and cards); Church History (blue dots and cards); Devotional Literature (green dots and cards); Theology and Ethics (yellow dots and cards); Miscellaneous (orange dots and cards); Pastoral Care (red dots and pink cards); and Biography (black dots and white cards). In a box on the shelf above the books, you will find all the titles and authors arranged on cards alphabetically in their categories. There are blank white cards and pens in this box that can be used to sign out books. Please put the title, author, the date, your name and telephone number on a card when you borrow a book, and leave it in the back of the box. When you return the book, cross out the information on the card. Please help yourselves to some food for thought!

— *Suzanne Reed and Betty Sawyer*

## SCHOOL FEASIBILITY TEAM

### Grant enables school exploration to continue

Continuing discussions that began in 1993, the Middle School Feasibility Team had an active year exploring the possibility of establishing an Episcopal middle school for urban youth that would have an integral relationship with the ministry of St. Peter's.

The February Vestry Retreat devoted major attention to the matter, several parish meetings were held to advance discussion among parishioners, and the School Feasibility Team focused intensively on conducting a feasibility study. In May, Ann Gordon, executive director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, addressed an open meeting on the issue and was very encouraging about this effort at St. Peter's.

A grant of \$5,000 was made by Bp. Tom Shaw and Bp. Barbara Harris in order to assist the feasibility study. While location at and specific connection with St. Peter's continues to be a major option, the study is exploring other options of location and sponsorship as well. The overall effort is coordinated by the Rev. Jane Butterfield, with EDS seminarian James Billington carrying out the specific tasks related to conducting the study.

The vision of the school is "to create an Episcopal school that will unite Christian formation with academic excellence, and that will be responsive to the increasingly critical needs of the urban environment." The school would be co-educational, beginning with 40 students and expanding to 80 in two years, maintaining a student-teacher ratio of 20:1. Admission would be geared toward representing a cross-section of backgrounds, abilities, and financial conditions, with priority given to urban children at risk.

Parishioners on the team include Judy Bibbins, Bill Guthrie, Bill and Lois Bennett, Takako Salvi, Elizabeth Avery, Adrien Stair, and others. Upon its completion, the

feasibility study will be presented to the bishops, to the Vestry, and to parishes in the diocese that have provided financial support to the feasibility study.

— *Jane Butterfield, Chair*

## YOUTH FORUM

### Sunday sessions stimulate youth

The St. Peter's Youth Forum was started to provide the youth of the church with a chance for education and fellowship on Sunday mornings. The adults had various prayer groups and meetings, and the young children were in morning child care. Because we didn't really fit into either of these categories, Titus started the Youth Forum. It meets at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. So far, the group has gathered together about eight young adults: Olivia Demanche, Pendry Haines, Elektra Haviaras, Alexandra Irving, Ada McMahan, Elizabeth Nill, Tacara Soones and Karen Williams.

Andrea Akers, an adult member of St. Peter's, has recently come to join us Sunday mornings and help with leadership. She adds another voice to our group, and her comments are welcomed by all of us. Some of the topics we have already covered are drugs, peer pressure, dating, relationships, and confirmation. The wonderful part about this youth group is that we use the Bible to talk about some of the issues previously mentioned. Not only is it educational, but it also really makes you think about these issues.

— *Elektra Haviaras, Youth Forum Member  
Grade 9, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School*

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### COMMON BOOK CLUB

#### Book discussions prompt warm fellowship

The Common Book Club, which meets on the second Friday of the month for conversation, dinner and discussion, remains popular. We have had approximately ten meetings and have read devotional works, biography, novels, short stories and plays. Hal Obayashi guided us through *The Silence*, a novel by Shusaku Endo, a modern Japanese Christian author. We read T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* aloud and attempted to explain Flannery O'Connor to one another.

Interesting as they are, the readings are probably not the main attraction for the dozen or so members of the club. The potluck dinners have been delicious, and the opportunity to visit in one another's homes has been much enjoyed. The book club is branching out into a film evening in January. New members are always welcome. Watch for the announcements in the weekly bulletin and join us.

— *Judy Bibbins*

### THE GUILD

#### The Guild reaches homebound at Christmas

Q: Why does this group not hold meetings?

A: There is no way to have meetings, because Guild members are involved in fifteen ministries of St. Peter's. Example: the Food Basket in the Narthex is not a Guild project, but it is Guild members who distribute the food to the shelters. Our group worked at The Fair. We provided and served Lunch at the the First Baptist Church on the Wednesday in Lent assigned to St. Peter's. A fruit basket was sent to Rector Emeritus Ernest Thompson and his wife Leslie who are facing health challenges at this time. We are grateful to Dora Jackson for sending Christmas greetings from The Guild to St. Peter's shut-ins. Fifteen attended our season ending Luncheon last June. Treasurer Dorothy MacKillop reports receipts of \$177.91 and disbursements of \$231.00, leaving a balance of \$373.94.

— *Grace L. Muller, Secretary*

## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

### Men's group meets in chancel for prayer

Now entering its fourth year, Men's Prayer Breakfast has many benefits. It has private praying time, a leadership rotation to direct and read psalms and scripture, and spiritual discussion of issues of everyday life. It is a chance to pray aloud to the triune God about our personal needs. We also mention people who need help and prayers for various reasons, asking God's help through the Holy Spirit. After two book studies and a couple of years of Bible study, last fall the group shifted its pattern to meeting in the Chancel for a more intensive focus on prayer.

Men's Prayer Breakfast is an opportunity to socialize with other men who care. Parker Gallagher, Doug Huber, Tony Coleman, Titus Presler, Nick Reed, Tom Patterson and William E. Cowles III are the members who regularly make it to Men's Prayer Breakfast on Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Someone also brings something to eat while socializing, and coffee also is served.

— *William E. Cowles III*

## NET

Sam to add during production

## PRAYER CHAIN

### Many concerns were prayed for

We received more than seventy requests for prayers during the year. Some requests were for members of St. Peter's. Others were for people we did not know. We did not have to know them — *someone* did, and cared enough to get a whole prayer chain working on their behalf. Some names came to us more than once. I like to think it is because of positive results received from their previous experience on the list.

If you are on the Prayer Chain and not getting calls, please let me know. We lost quite a few "links" in the chain, mostly because they moved away. Would you like to join the chain to fill in the blanks? If so, give me a call at 648-6551.

— *Grace L. Muller, Recording Secretary*

## UNDERCROFT COFFEEHOUSE

## Coffeehouse exposes parish to wider community

After a year or so of dreaming and planning, the Undercroft Coffeehouse was inaugurated this past fall as a monthly event to build community within the parish and offer entertainment at St. Peter's to the wider community. The Undercroft began in November with Lady Liz English and Friends and poetry read by Tony Coleman to a crowd of sixty. In December, we were graced with our own Lois Bennett with a surprise performance by Bill Bennett. The evening was also shared with Jim Bouchard on guitar. The January Undercroft had Kevin So and Sarah Jane, both on guitar. Each month we see different faces in the audience.

Carberry's is generously supplying us with coffee for each Coffeehouse. Recently on radio 88.9, the Undercroft Coffeehouse at St. Peter's was mentioned during the Live from Passim's show. We made the January 4 issue of the Cambridge Chronicle. Through the Undercroft, St. Peter's is getting more exposure in the greater Cambridge community.

Many people have helped: Andrea Akers and Adrien Stair at the door, Virginia Swain and Joseph Baratta in the kitchen, Barbara Pilgrim in the kitchen (in fact she is now supervising the kitchen), Ann Makarias, Sallie Craig Huber and Jane Butterfield Presler, bakers. The modest proceeds of the coffeehouse this year are dedicated to the parish ministry of Afterworks.

— *Liz Avery and Cliff Haughn, Coordinators*

### VISITING TEAM

## Visitors aim to reach all homebound

Advent. Six children and four adults stood in front of the Cantabrigia Nursing Home, and the door was locked. The snow fell softly as we knocked. Our knock was answered and we entered, shaking off our coats and boots. For the children it was the first time they had ever been in a nursing home with its many ancient frail folks, the sounds, the smells, all strange . . . and we sang . . . *Away in a Manger* . . .

Again we gathered at Mediplex in Lexington where parishioner Aurora Walke makes her home. The children (and I'm sure the adults too) a little less fearful. Bright eyes greeted us, welcomed us in. So happy to see the children, especially, the kids began to meet our guests' gaze offered their copy of the songbook to someone, helped them find the page . . . and we sang . . . *Joy to the World* . . .

By the time we went to the Cambridge nursing home where parishioner Evelyn Sullivan lives, the kids were already rating residences, instead of avoiding looking into the rooms one suggested – "more people are over there, lets sing there" . . . and we sang *Once in Royal David's City* . . .

The children's gifts of ornaments and bookmarks were placed in every hand; a week ago reluctant to approach our listeners, they ran back to the box for another ornament, "There's a woman who doesn't have one yet" "There's a man in the corner, he's sleeping, but he'll see it when he wakes up." . . . and we sang *Silent Night* . . .

At Dorothy Fowler's we sang and sang as her gray and friendly cat wound around our ankles, and we were warm as it snowed and snowed outside. There was a moment, somewhere we sang when one woman sang with all her heart, she held up her hands praising God, conducting us all with broad dancing gestures – she caught my eyes with her gaze like a fish on a hook and held that gaze with intensity and

in fierce love of the praising . . . and we sang *Angels We Have Heard On High* . . . although for me, I was hearing them all around me, ready for the Christ child to come . . . *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* . . . The Parish Visiting team had one meeting in September. A number of people who are active in visiting were not able to attend, but those present had a wonderful discussion, sharing experiences past and present with visiting. There will be another meeting in February to catch up together on who has been able to visit and how those folks are doing. Our parish is full of wonderful and loving folks who visit in the manner that Jesus taught us to pray, without announcement or record. It is important, though, to improve our care and outreach to *all* St. Peter's parishioners who cannot make it to church, who would like a visit and/or to be brought the Eucharist. This year the goal of this team will be to join caring with coverage and continuity, so that St. Peter's parishioners can say that no one in our parish family is forgotten.

Gayaura Pritz assumed leadership of the Parish Visiting Team in September. Special thanks to Sophronia Camp and Pat Drake for organizing the Carols Singing this year. The Carols Singing is not an event of the Parish Visiting Team *per se*, but it is an example of the interconnectedness that makes St. Peter's the special place it is. For those interested in this ministry, call Gayaura for more information, and come to the February meeting.

— *Gayaura Pritz, Coordinator*

## WELCOME TEAM

### Welcome ministry reorganizes for 1996

The growth of the congregation of St. Peter's in the first half of this decade can be attributed to several factors: the dynamism of its ministries, the openness of its members in inviting others to share in its life, its central location in an urban area, and an intentional and well-organized outreach to visitors.

The chart below indicates the numbers of households and persons incorporated into the life of the parish in the September-through-August ministry years from 1991 through 1995. "Incorporated" means committed membership, which includes, at a minimum, a verbal or written indication of affiliation with the parish and at least occasional attendance. Usually, it also means the development of friendships within the parish, association with some network within the parish, and the offering of some ministry. The general growth of the parish can be gauged by the fact that the 1990 Parochial Report listed 130 adult members and 18 children as of 12.31.90 and the 1994 Parochial Report listed 250 adults and 60 children as of 12.31.94.

#### **Newcomers Incorporated into St. Peter's Church 1991-95**

<b>Ministry Year</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Persons</b>
1991-92	15	25		9		34
1992-93	26	34		15		49
1993-94	18	24		8		32
1994-95	26	34		10		44
<hr/>						
Totals	85	117		42		159

The first half of the 1995-96 ministry year has seen about 15 households and about 23 individuals become part of the life of St. Peter's.

Reasons most often cited by new members for their joining the parish include: the parish's quality of worship, its warm community life, the preaching ministry, the diversity of the congregation, the church's location, and St. Peter's commitment to local outreach. A majority of parishioners continue to come from the areas of Central Square, Cambridgeport, and Mid-Cambridge, with substantial numbers also coming from suburbs and other areas of Cambridge. Racial and socio-economic diversity continues, with a considerable increase in people with professional backgrounds.

The first years of the Newcomers Ministry were led by Jill Holmes, who, with John Holmes, moved to Washington at the end of the 1993-94 ministry year. The 1994-95 year was led by Elizabeth Avery and Virginia Swain. The ministry is now in a period of reorganization. A Welcome Team has been formed, and its members include: Elizabeth Avery & Cliff Haughn, Sophronia Camp and Jeffrey McMahon, Ben and Shepali Chokshi-Fox, Tom Patterson, Charlotte Potter, Linda Smith, and Rachel Snow.

Tasks which the team is organizing to carry out include: Sunday greeting and welcome before and after services; personal welcome during Coffee Hour; following up on Guest Book information; written communication with visitors; telephone calls to visitors within days of visit; home visits with gifts to newcomers, as may be appropriate; organizing Welcome Brunches; networking newcomers into parish ministries. The team is excited about its work, but we stress that the ministry of welcome is a ministry that belongs to *all* parish members, for welcoming strangers is a gospel ministry of discipleship, and building up the Body of Christ is an opportunity we all share.

— *Titus Presler, Rector*

## WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

### Women focus on fellowship and prayer

The Women's Prayer Breakfast provides the opportunity for women to meet each Friday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Seven to nine women have been meeting for fellowship with a reading and Bible verses, sharing of special or ongoing concerns and thanksgiving, followed by a time of silence and prayer. The meeting closes with a shared breakfast. We would be most happy to be joined by other women in this hour of fellowship and prayer. It is a wonderful way of ending one week and looking forward to the coming week.

— *Hedy Pocius*

## OUTREACH

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

### Habitat Cambridge organized through CCAH

In the new 1995-96 year, the Cambridge Clergy for Affordable Housing (CCA) is chaired by Rev. Robert Tobin of Christ Church (Harvard Square). Rev. Tobin was elected to the Chair last spring

following Rev. Jane Presler's three very active and productive years of leadership. In October, CCAH had its initial meeting and is currently scheduling its program of work for the year.

CCAH will play a key role in the development of the Cambridge Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The chapter has recently submitted its chapter profile outlining its organizational structure and longterm plans for serving Cambridge to Habitat for Humanity Boston, its parent affiliate. Habitat Cambridge steering committee Chair Joyce Trotman (Executive Director of Hildebrand Center, Inc.) is eager for the Cambridge chapter to get to work, to "pick up the hammer," and to begin new construction and housing repair ministries.

The Habitat Cambridge project was initiated during Rev. Presler's tenure as CCAH Chair. Other highlights of her term include the Millard Fuller Forum at which Habitat for Humanity International's founder galvanized Cambridge's support for Habitat's ministry. Another memorable event was the 1993 Reinventing Housing Policy in Cambridge conference featuring David Osborne. It was a major step toward bringing reasonable discussion and clear thinking to issues surrounding affordable housing in Cambridge.

— *Henry R. Irving, Secretary*

## AFTERWORKS

### Diverse group of 10 children served by afterschool

Afterworks is a multicultural afterschool ministry serving elementary school-age children primarily from low-income families living in the Central Square neighborhood of Cambridge. Afterworks is one of the two programs started in 1993 as a family literacy outreach ministry of St. Peter's Church. In 1994/95 we had three children, and Elizabeth Sullivan, a student at the Cambridge Friends School, volunteered her assistance for the program. That year we offered the program only on Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the Undercroft. We suspended the program at the end of March 1995, because I left the country in order complete the adoption process for our baby in Sri Lanka.

The recruitment for 1995-96 began only at the end of August 1995, which was not easy. Unlike other years, we must be financially self-supporting this year. We began Afterworks in November with 8 children: three children from the Ethiopian community, three African American children, one each from New Zealand and Panama. One new child joined in Demeber and another in January, bringing the number of children in the program to 10. One newcomer is an African American and the other child is from the West Indies. We are very pleased about the diversity of our group, with my background as a Sri Lankan.

Afterworks offers special activities for creative learning, such as arts and crafts projects and field trips. Afterworks is a participatory program, meaning that the children often provide the best ideas for learning and activities. At Afterworks, we listen to and learn from the children, and they from each other. Afterworks is designed to accomplish the following goals during the 95/96 year: • Establish comfortable friends and good homework habits. • Practice Sharing. • Learn about each other's cultures. • Explore Cambridge and the Greater Boston area. • Become reacquainted with the earth.

The fee for Afterworks is \$40 per week for each child enrolled. Hedy Pocius, Julius McMahan, Jeanne Person, Pat Drake, Monica King, and Demetra Halkias have been helping me with the program. Thank-you all very much for your invaluable help. We are very grateful to Titus Presler and Jeanne Person for

all the support. We also thank the Undercroft Coffeehouse, and Christ Church Cambridge for their financial assistance and all the parishioners who have supported us with their prayers.

— *Vyonni delMel, On-Site Coordinator*

## EVANGELISM TEAM

### Local neighbors are visited with good news

"Hello, we're from St. Peter's Church. —Where? — It's the church over there on the corner. We're visiting people in the neighborhood. Can we pray with you, or is there anything you would like to have included in our prayers at Sunday worship?"

Armed with a knowledge that prayer can be an important force in one's life and of the faithful Christian witness at St. Peter's, a handful of parishioners had similar conversations with about 50 of our nearby neighbors during the past year. The responses varied from prayer requests for very personal concerns, to appreciation for the contact, to bemusement and embarrassment, to lack of interest. For the visitors, it was a rewarding yet humbling experience.

The purpose of the visits is to be a witness to God's caring love and to introduce people to the Christian Episcopal community here at St. Peter's. This ministry began as a vision from Titus and Hal Obayashi. This past year has been a small beginning. It is hoped that during the year to come we will be able to begin a discipline of visits to the neighborhood on a regular basis. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please get in touch with Frank Smith.

— *Frank Smith*

## FOOD BASKET

### Food is donated to local shelters

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to take a total of 44 bags of food, divided between two local agencies: the Salvation Army and the CASPAR shelter on Albany Street. The non-perishable groceries we donate on Sundays fill a real need, and are most appreciated. Making the deliveries in 1995 were Ruth Marshall, Rita Ritzau and Beatrice Slade.

— *Ruth Marshall, Coordinator*

## WIDER MISSION COMMITTEE

### Pilgrimage and missionaries focus mission efforts

The St. Peter's Wider Mission Committee promotes involvement with the world beyond our immediate diocesan, national and cultural boundaries and seeks to enhance and strengthen our understanding of the Gospel and our parish life by mission involvement. During 1995, the Committee sponsored or participated in the following activities:

A major committee activity has been the planning and preparation for a pilgrimage to Zimbabwe for the centenary of the martyrdom of Bernard Mizeki. The June 1996 pilgrimage will be undertaken jointly with two other groups from the Society of St. John the Evangelist and the Diocese of Massachusetts. These activities began with a potluck supper in February, and the group has met periodically ever since to plan, raise funds, and to undertake orientation, including basic language training.

Ross Elliott, one of our committee members who is also a nurse, visited El Salvador for a second time last spring on a short-term medical mission. While there, he made contact with representatives of the Diocese of El Salvador, resulting in a letter of invitation from Bishop Martin Barahona for Ross to serve as a volunteer in mission there. Ross is pursuing this possibility.

For a second year, the committee contributed the proceeds of the summer coffee hour to the work of the Richard and Martha Menees who were serving as missionaries in South Africa. Both presented their work at the Sunday Forum, and Richard preached at St. Peter's during their leave in October, when they were also presented with our check for \$200. Sadly, they learned on their return that their work is ending in January 1996 due to a shortage in financial support from the local parish there.

Other activities of the Committee during 1995 included:

- Endorsement of committee member Virginia Swain for her participation in the U.N. World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March.
- Visit by Sallie Craig Huber, Committee Co-Chair, to the home parish of the Rev. Samuel Muturi, former St. Peter's priest associate, in rural Kenya in April.
- Sponsorship of the Rev. Samuel Tusuubira for a presentation in May at the Sunday Forum about his work in training theological students about community development at the Bishop Tucker Theological College in Uganda. (Samuel is husband of the Rev. Mary Tusuubira, who was priest associate at St. Peter's during her degree training at EDS).
- Ongoing prayer support for Charlotte Presler, St. Peter's member, during her mission activity in Zimbabwe during the first half of the year. She kept us apprised of her activities through several very informative letters and articles.
- Assistance with an "open space event" related to the U.N. World Summit for Children and the Children's Torch of Hope when it came to Boston in September.
- Continued the periodic reading of the Sunday lesson in languages other than English as a reminder of the wider Anglican Communion to which the Episcopal Church belongs.

— *Douglas and Sallie Craig Huber, Co-Chairs*

## WORDWORKS

### ESL class offers English literacy to immigrants

If you happen to be in the Undercroft on most Monday or Wednesday evenings, you'll hear the "sound of learning" coming from the Wordworks ESL class. For the second year, St. Peter's, in collaboration with the Community Learning Center, is offering Cambridge residents the chance to improve their English, make friends, and join in fellowship with parishioners and other volunteers. Class enrollment is about 12, with immigrant participants from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

This year's team includes regulars Caroline Banks, Tony Coleman and Kellye Lovett. We've been joined by Frank Tipton and Demetra Halkins. Our activities run the gamut from basic reading and writing to hearty singing and wide-ranging conversations. We also share information and life stories. Every class includes "tea and sympathy" as well as a healthy dose of laughter.

We recommend that you get a hold of a copy of our literary magazine *For Word* to get an even better idea of who we are and what we're doing. Very special thanks go to two more people: K. Jeanne Person for putting together and producing both issues of *For Word* and Grace Muller our treasurer and "news clipper" extraordinaire.

This self-supporting ministry is a rewarding one – the learning is definitely two-way. If you'd like to start participating or helping behind the scenes, please get in touch with Caroline at 864-1013. If you have no time, but would like to help our students buy reading materials of their own, we welcome donations. Your purchase of *For Word* is also appreciated.

– Caroline Banks, Director

## STEWARDSHIP

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TEAM

### Campaign nears goal of \$225,000 with wide participation

*Our Next 150 Years: A Capital Campaign for St. Peter's Church* was a major feature of life at St. Peter's in 1995. The first comprehensive capital drive in the parish since the church renovation of 1932, the campaign now has over \$210,000 pledged toward a variety of important and long-deferred building projects.

As of December, 65 members pledged \$164,884; 19 non-members pledged \$13,375; \$20,000 was received from the Presser Foundation; and \$12,000 was received from the Building Fund that was gathering contributions prior to the campaign's inauguration. The total pledged thus stood at \$210,259. Of this amount, over \$60,000 in actual contributions was in hand in the *St. Peter's Capital Fund Account* at Cambridgeport Saving Bank, an account coordinated by Capital Fund Collector Tamra Blake.

The Capital Campaign Team plans to continue to push for the final \$15,000 in needed pledges before celebrating completion with a parish dinner in later winter or early spring. Team members have included: Bill Guthrie, chair; K. Jeanne Person, clerk; Tamra Blake, collector; Robert Brooks, Jennifer Dunning, Warren Jackson and Frank Smith, members at large; and Titus Presler, general coordinator.

Over two years of Vestry Planning and seven months of focused team effort bore fruit on April 8 as over 80 parishioners gathered for the Opning Dinner in the Undercroft, when Campaign Chair Bill Guthrie announced that the Vestry had set a goal of \$225,000 and that about \$125,000 had already been pledged by about households and other entities contacted during the feasibility stage of the campaign. The following months featured an intensive program of individual interviews with parishioners conducted by team members and other volunteers.

A folder of outstanding materials developed by the team and produced by its clerk formed the basis of over 100 conversations with active parishioners. Less active parishioners received a special mailing, as did about 150 former parishioners around the country. Potential contributors were given opportunity to commit in a variety of ways and over a period of time beginning July 1, 1995, and concluding July 1, 1988.

The Capital Fund is designed to fund several levels of priority projects: First: Roof, Masonry, and Wiring repairs. Second: Organ repair, Restroom renovation. Third: Disability Access. Fourth: Free-standing Altar, Sound System, Interior Painting. Preparations for the masonry work have commenced, and bids for the roofing will be solicited in early spring of 1996.

The entire effort was preceded by a process that began in 1992 with the Building 150 Team arising from the Sesquicentennial Celebration. On the basis of that group's recommendations, the Vestry established the Mission and Goals of St. Peter's Church, developed the Long-Range Plan, refined the Project Priorities, and wrote the Case for St. Peter's Church.

The Campaign for St. Peter's Church is the financial and physical complement to the renewal of the parish's ministry that has taken place in the last several years. As the mission of St. Peter's has blossomed in worship, education, community life, and outreach, so now the physical foundations of the parish will be renewed that God's presence in Cambridge through this parish may shine forth.

— Titus Presler, Rector

## CARE & REPAIR

### Capital improvements are major 1996 focus

The work of the Care and Repair Committee in 1995 divided itself into three categories: 1) Heating system, 2) Miscellaneous projects, 3) Capital improvements

#### *Heating System*

In the Spring committee members undertook a basement belly crawl to examine the condition of the heating pipes located there. A leak was found in the area under the St. Elizabeth Chapel. This has been repaired and we are now getting heat in the chapel, a phenomenon outside the memory of many parishioners and one that assists the daily worship that occurs in that space.

One of the sump pumps associated with the condensate return system failed and was replaced. Old asbestos insulation on the main steam pipe from the boiler was professionally removed and legally disposed of. This is in preparation for re-gasketing a valve there, the source of yet another leak in the system.

The general broken-down condition of the heating distribution system causes great wear on the boilers. The linking of our system with the rented Parish House system complicates finding troubles. In the year ahead we would like to examine how the system might be separated and what the potential benefits of doing so would be.

#### *Miscellaneous Projects*

The addition of the carved wooden rack in the Entry Vestibule was accomplished through the effort of Joseph Baratta, who located discarded furniture in the Undercroft Basement and fashioned the attractive design we now have to reuse the materials for their present use.

A contract was completed for painting the fire escape leading from the Sacristy and Undercroft. Roof flashing and gutter repairs were made on the church. To increase security, Joseph Baratta studied the

locks and keying system in the building. Part of a renewed system was installed involving changing keying of some locks and adding others.

### *Capital Improvements*

With the availability of funds from the Capital Campaign, a start on capital improvement projects was begun. In November, the masonry condition of the church and tower were surveyed by Vertical Access, specialist in this kind of work from Ithaca, New York. They scaled the surfaces by rope-climbing the walls, visually inspecting them, and photographically recording significant conditions, which are keyed to elevation drawings. Their work is incorporated in a report which will serve as a scope basis for contracting the necessary repairs. The bid specification for this is being completed and will be out to contractors for pricing shortly. Specification and pricing of the insulation and re-roofing of the church will follow this Spring.

The committee membership includes: Joseph Baratta, Sherman Garland, John Hiscock, Sam Hunting, Leonard Jackson, Warren Jackson, Quentin Jay, and Richard Marshall.

— *Bill Bibbins, Chair*

## COLLECTOR'S REPORT

### Pledge progress encouraging in 1995 and 1996

In 1995, 81 members/households signed pledges, and 44 members/households were non-pledging regular donors — for a total of 125 contributing members/households. Of the \$84,252 pledged, a total of \$80,109 has been collected as of 7 January 1996 — a shortfall of \$4,145 (5%). Regular donations total \$14,113 for the year — \$3,663 (35%) more than the Treasurer projected in the budget. Of the 81 pledges, 50 have been paid in full (with 18 of the 50 contributing more than pledged). Another 17 households have met at least 75% of their pledge, 3 households have met at least 50%, 7 have met 25%, and 4 have paid less than 25%. In addition, most members/households contributed to special offerings (e.g., Lent, Easter, LEVAS hymnals, UTO, Advent, Christmas). St. Peter's continues to be very grateful for its parishioners' generous financial support.

As of 7 January 1996, we have received 74 signed pledges totalling \$86,858, and expect a number of others to be submitted for the 1996 budget year. Of the 74, 19 are from new parishioners and previously non-pledging regular donors who decided to sign a pledge this year.

— *Patricia Drake, Collector*

## OFFICE GUILD

### Group forms to help parish office

"Many hands make light work" could well be the motto of the volunteers who gather to collate, fold, label, stamp and sort "St. Peter's Net" and other church mailings as needed. Members of this group, named "The Office Guild," met ten times this past year. These helpers included Martha Bibbins, William Cowles, Jean Garland, Gloria Jackson, June Johnson, Ruth Marshall, Barbara Pilgrim, Hedy Pocius and Rita Ritzau.

Since not every member can come every time, because of other commitments, we need a large number of people we can call on. So if you have a few hours to spend each month, please give your name and telephone number to Adrien (547-7788) so she can add you to the list of volunteers.

## VESTRY REVIEW

### Vestry had active, varied year

In reviewing the work of the vestry of the past year, funding for our various ministries and parish life, leadership transitions, and outreach through ministries emerge as the primary areas of our concern and attentions in addition to our usual management functions.

The Capital Campaign Fund drive was studied, authorized and successfully conducted to provide the parish with crucial funds to conduct much needed maintenance and improvements to our spiritual “home”. The generosity of the parish will enable our physical plant to thrive as much as our ministries! We can all celebrate with gratitude the response to the call on everyone’s part.

The Capital Campaign Fund was not our only financial effort. The vestry spent much time deliberating how to improve our stewardship effort. Through the excellent, sensitive, thorough and well conceived work and planning of Susan Dowds, Adrien Stair, Astrid af Klinteberg and all others involved in the Stewardship Team drive, we are further ahead in our pledges to date than at any time in the past.

While we celebrate and give thanks, we also face the unhappy reality that we once again face the total pledged amount falling short of our projected, barebones budget. The 1995 shortfall this year has been funded from the cash left over from last year and by deferring some repairs leaving us in a weakened cash state. The treasurer's report gives a more complete review.

The vestry spent much time on outreach. Building on work started by the previous vestry, the School Feasibility Project was further studied by us including a special meeting in March devoted solely to this topic. Over many months we spoke with a variety of people who had been involved in starting and running schools or were supportive of our effort, considering whether we should undertake a project of this size and commitment. We have proposals of structure, governance, board of directors composition and candidates, mission, ideas for funding, a realistic timeline of development. In short, we have just about everything needed to make a decision. We postponed making decisions during our leadership transitions.

Afterworks received time and support from us. Led by Jeanne Person and Vyonna de Mel, the vestry renewed its support of this ministry including offers from vestry members to personally fund the program themselves if needed. We provided guidance and requirements of our support in the hope of assuring success by identifying weaknesses in the program we felt needed addressing. Happy to say, the issues seem to be resolved and enrollment is growing.

We had many leadership transitions. St. Peter’s is proving itself to be fertile ground for growing spiritual leaders! Bob Brooks, a seminarian at EDS and a valued volunteer in both the Capital Campaign and the School feasibility projects was ordained in Pennsylvania in June and has a parish in Ohio. Hal Obayashi was ordained in St. Peter’s in April and is now assisting at a parish in Framingham. Alice Goodman, one of our parishoners, is seeking ordination. Jane Presler, then co-rector here, was a candidate for Bishop in New York. Titus was a candidate for Bishop in Rhode Island. At one point, it looked like we might lose both of them!

Sadly, Jane has left us. The financial needs of the Presler family require two incomes, not the one they were sharing here. So the co-rectorship came to a close in September. Jane is now serving All Saints in Stoneham. Titus is now our fulltime rector as of September. The vestry responded to all these transitions by making decisions under uncertain circumstances, communicating with the parish, offering support and keeping a level head. We have had a busy year, and we hope the parish is better for it!

— *T. Parker Gallagher, Clerk*