



# TRANSPARENCIES

*"... helping us recognize the light that shines through our parish"*

St. Peter's Catholic Church

Volume 13, No. 4

507 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202

March 2006

## How does our garden grow?

The final piece of parish campus construction is set to begin.

It won't be long before the St. Peter's campus renovation/construction project is completed. The Garden, which will act as a wonderful buffer between the church and the new administration building, is now moving beyond the planning stage. This final part of the development is being managed by Tim von der Embse, a parish member with several years of experience in landscape design and contracting. (An architect's drawing of the Garden is shown below.)

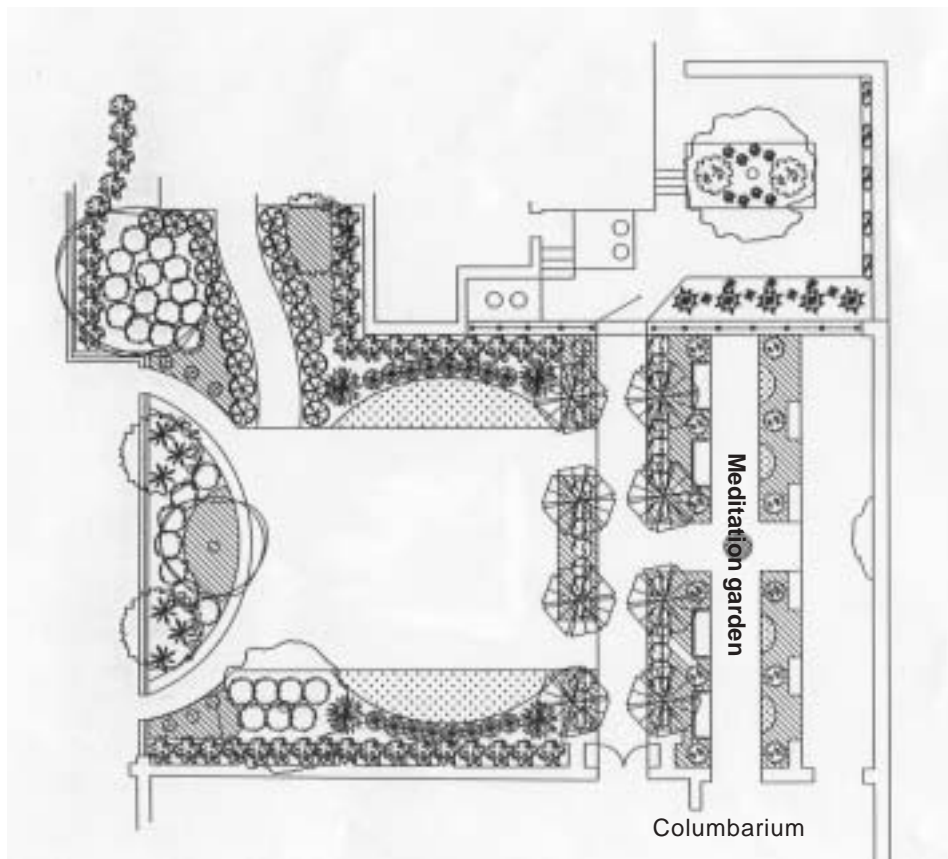
Not only will the Garden tie our lovely complex together, but it will help integrate the St. Peter's campus with the adjoining Wachovia park, The Green. The Garden will be made up of a smaller meditation garden and the parish columbarium, and will

provide a beautifully paved and planted space for parish social gatherings, including special events and weddings.

Landscaping will feature a coordinated array of evergreen and deciduous shrubs, grassy areas, ground cover and perennial flowers. Paving will be in natural grey/brown tones to help showcase the landscaping elements. The foliage will be consistent with plantings in the adjoining Wachovia Commons.

Tim is the liaison between St. Peter's and the North Carolina chapter of the Green Industry Council (GIC). GIC is an association of companies in the environmental beautification business. Council members will donate labor and materials to our project. Thanks to the kindness of the GIC, this generous gift will allow St. Peter's to realize considerable savings.

*Joe Breen*



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## St. Peter's Tithing Committee selects a new worthy cause

As a representative of the Tithing Committee I made a field trip to Hope Haven on N. Tryon St. and learned firsthand about the tremendous work this organization does. This visit resulted in our selecting Hope Haven as the recipient of our January 2006 tithing.

Hope Haven programs provide a foundation for substance abuse recovery through 24-hour counseling services and on-site vocational training programs. The programs include educational training, parenting classes, early childhood education, life skills training, and job referrals. They also provide transitional and permanent housing.

Quite a bit has already been accomplished to meet Hope Haven's growth needs and continue to fulfill its mission. Their facility, the Villages of Hope Haven, was once a dilapidated motel used by drug dealers and addicts. Hope Haven made expensive renovations before moving in eight years ago. They needed to do many things: remove asbestos, lead-paint and mildew; bring electrical and plumbing systems up to code; and furnish over 100 units to give residents ample housing and services.

But they still need help!

Due to Hope Haven's rapid growth and the success of its programs, they need additional renovations to this 50 year-old facility if it is to continue providing quality service to those who are homeless and in recovery.

Here's an important example. Their on-site industrial kitchen provides over 400 meals per day for its residents. However, this kitchen is operating with equipment that is over half a century old!

Thanks to St. Peter's and other generous contributors, Hope Haven will be able to continue its wonder work in caring for the needy in Charlotte.

Here are two testimonials of those who have been helped.

### Transparencies

*Publisher: Rev. Joe Sobierajski, S.J.*  
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 Transparencies is published quarterly. We welcome articles, commentaries, photographs, book reviews, news of parishioners, of committee activities, etc. Please send items by email by the 10th of August, November, February, and May to Ann Weber at [atweber@mindspring.com](mailto:atweber@mindspring.com).

### Editor's notes

"The old order changeth yielding place to new..."

I wish I could have penned those words because there are so many times that they are appropriate. Right now they apply to my role as editor of this newsletter. Jan Kelly did it for 10 years, but I am running out of steam after 4 years. I feel strongly that there are people out there who could take over and could bring new ideas and talent to the task.

What I have been doing could really be split among three people: a person to organize and assign tasks; a person to do layout on computer and work with the printing company; a person to handle the labeling and bulk mailing. If you are able and willing to do any of these tasks please contact me or the church office.

I plan that the June issue will be my last, but if necessary I'll be available to help after that.

*Ann Weber*  
704-364-9850



I believe my success is a result of Hope Haven's aftercare program. It allowed me to bring my daughter with me into a structured, nurturing, loving and caring environment, giving me time to work on myself during my recovery process. Having a place for my child to be with me is why this program worked. It helped us start a healing process that we continue to this day.

When I came to Hope Haven I was homeless, helpless and hopeless with no direction or sense of purpose. I had used and abused drugs for more than thirty years. As a result of my continued drug use I had lost everything—my home, my family, my job. I lost me. I went from someone who was socially acceptable to someone who was eating out of garbage cans and sleeping under bridges.



Hope Haven gave me a sense of purpose. They told me that I was worth something, that I could learn to live again. They gave me a safe environment in which I learned to achieve long-term recovery. They gave me a sense of direction, they gave me a new life, and for that I am truly grateful.

*Mary Grady and Joe Breen*

# Ignatian Year of Prayer

In the Society of Jesus we are accustomed to celebrating our saints. From December 2005 until December 2006 the Society is celebrating a Jubilee Year: the 450th anniversary of the death of St. Ignatius Loyola, and the 500th anniversary of the births of St. Francis Xavier and St. Peter Faber. Francis and Peter were the first companions of Ignatius, the founder of the Society. This occasion has provided us in the Maryland Province of the Society, the opportunity to offer this "Year of Prayer" for our spiritual growth as a parish. The focus of our Ignatian prayer nights and retreats has been to help us deepen our sense of a life with God through gratitude, healing, the call, and co-laboring. All of these themes are deeply rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

What follows is a reflection by a member of our St. Peter's family who has gone through the Spiritual Exercises. We know that everyone does not have the blessed opportunity to make the Exercises in their entirety, but each of us may find the opportunity to be a part of some aspect of the life of prayer and service. We are all stewards of God's gifts.

*Fr. Vince*

For those of us who have been active in "church" all our lives, daily prayer can be static and one-sided. One of the most meaningful aspects of my experiences with the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises was a renewed sense of "daily urgency" in turning to Jesus over and over again as each day unfolded. I turn to Him for discernment in a particular situation and as an eternal companion. The mutuality of God's love for us and our response to that love is woven into every "choice" presented in the Exercises. The Ignatian perspective on humility, types of people, and three ways of praying has been a wonderful discipline when the many distractions of our society pretend to be an end in themselves. Treating humility as "living as close to the Truth (Jesus) as possible" is surprisingly different from the common interpretation.

Ending the day with the "Examen of Consciousness" has been especially beautiful, starting with a prayer of gratitude and then reflecting on God's presence in various ways and my response to Him. One of my favorite professors ended every lecture with the admonition, "Don't go back to sleep!"

The Exercises have been my best chance to be "in the world, but not of the world."

*Bill Rainey*

## St. Peter's Embarks on Grand Event!

### "Splendor on The Green"

Saturday, June 17th

Watch for more news about this evening of art, music and delicious food!

St. Peter's, along with our neighbors on The Green, will be working hard to create a new and exciting event open to the entire Charlotte community!

With something this big, WE NEED YOUR HELP!  
Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact  
**Celia Klein at 704-502-8112 or Patti Tracey at 704-333-3430**

## Do you know. . .?

*This is a recurring column to help you get to know random members of St. Peter's family.*

### David Huizenga



**Zip code:** 28214

**At St. Peter's:** 3 1/2 years

**Usual Mass attending:** *Either Saturday or Sunday evening*

**Hometown:** *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

**In Charlotte:** 8 years

**Family:** *Married, wife Susan*

**Profession:** *Corporate Tax Director with Deloitte*

**Pastimes, hobbies:** *Travel, golf, boating and our dog, Cassie*

**What books would you recommend?**

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven, by Mitch Albom; The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren; The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks*

**Who is your favorite saint?** *St. Peter (my confirmation name!)*

**What is in your tape/CD player now?**

*Billy Joel's Greatest Hits*

**What is your favorite vacation spot?**

*Hilton Head Island*

**Do you have a personal motto?** *Live life to the fullest; be appreciative of each day*

**Who is your personal hero?** *My parents – my mother, a teacher, was studying to become a nun but did not for health reasons; she and my dad raised 5 children, including my brother with Down syndrome.*

**What is the best advice you ever received?** *Don't be too sensitive*

**What three possessions would you want on a deserted island?** *Bible, survival kit, suntan lotion*

**What single quality do you most revere in a friend?** *Loyalty*

**What is the hardest thing or decision you have ever done or made?** *Terminating someone's job*

**Describe the best meal you have ever had.** *My wife's dinners – especially the veal parmesan with southern cuisine (greens and black-eyed peas)*  
*Linda Sanchez*

# Meet our RCIA class

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) team at St. Peter's will be presenting five candidates and 4 catechumens this Easter season. The candidates (all previously baptized Christians) are Donna Bogy, Louisa Boyd, Kelly Payne, Robert Loveall and Mark Wadding. They will receive Confirmation and Eucharist. The catechumens, Tracy Lackey, Yilong Sunn, Brittany Rowan and Robert Ward, will receive the initiation sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

We will celebrate the Rite of Sending to the Bishop with the candidates and catechumens at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on March 5th, and they will celebrate the Rite of Election with Bishop Jugis at St. Michael's Church in Gastonia on the same day at 3:00 p.m., along with all the other candidates and catechumens from the Charlotte area.

As you read their stories you will certainly feel their excitement as they near the Easter season. The RCIA team feels blessed by the enthusiasm and commitment these candidates have shown in their weekly meetings. We all look forward to having them as full members of our parish. Please pray for them.

## Donna Bogy

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Donna moved to Charlotte nine years ago with her two daughters and lives close to uptown. She is the proud grandmother of three grandsons 8, 5 and 3.

Donna says she started going to St. Peter's about two years ago after going through turmoil in her personal life. She was looking for a way to feel closer to God." I have always felt the quiet reverence of worship at St. Peter's and that has touched my heart. This made me want to be a total part of the membership so I enrolled in RCIA and have thoroughly enjoyed the journey." Donna also says, "The RCIA classes are incredible, as well as the people and leadership. I have loved every session and have grown spiritually. It has truly been a blessing to my heart."

## Louisa Boyd

Single and 23 years old, Louisa is relatively new to Charlotte. She is a native of upstate New York who came south about a year and a half ago. Louisa works for a mortgage company in Charlotte, and is enjoying the area. Her choice of parishes was initially dictated by the convenience of St. Peter's uptown location,

but she quickly realized that the parish had much more to offer than just a great location.

Louisa says that the leaders of the RCIA program have been great in many ways—encouraging, friendly and understanding.

One event she particularly enjoyed was being involved with St. Peter's assistance at

Room in the Inn (homeless shelter) on a recent Monday night.

## Tracey Lackey

Tracey was born in Cape Cod Massachusetts and moved to Charlotte about five years ago. Her daughter attends Appalachian State University and is studying to be a teacher. Tracey plays the piano and bells and also enjoys reading and surfing on the computer.

Tracey found St. Peter's when looking for a new church and church family. Since she lives uptown, it is very convenient. She attended a Catholic church for a while during high school and found that to be a good experience. "The RCIA study materials are very helpful and informative. I really enjoy RCIA and my church family, and I am looking forward to being confirmed."

## Robert Loveall

A native of Warrensburg, Missouri, Robert has lived in Fort Mill for almost 13 years. He is a Safety and Environmental Director for Innospec, Inc., a specialty chemical manufacturer. He and his wife have four children, all of whom are grown, and two grandchildren. His hobbies include gardening, cooking, golf and playing cards.



Left to right: Tracey Lackey, Kelly Payne, Donna Bogy, Louisa Boyd, Doneata Grisdale (leader), Anne McClintock (leader), Robert Loveall, Yilong Sunn, Mark Wadding, Robert Ward, Brittany Rowan (with baby Elaina)

Raised a Presbyterian, Robert has attended church “some-what regularly” his entire life. Because his wife was raised Catholic, over the past few years they have studied many aspects of Catholicism, and Robert has realized they have much in common. The “real presence” of Christ in the Eucharist is very important to him and the writings of Pope John Paul II, as well as each of the priests at St. Peter’s, have had a very big impact on him.

Robert says, “The RCIA class has been absolutely incredible and is the highlight of my week. Each of the candidates/ catechumens and leaders has helped me on my journey. The energy, enthusiasm, faith, and companionship are fantastic. I am very excited about Holy Week.”

### **Kelly Payne**

A native Charlottean, Kelly has a bachelor’s degree in social work from NC State University. She currently is employed by CIGNA HealthCare and lives at home with her parents. Kelly is a yoga and fitness enthusiast who also enjoys riding horses, reading and traveling.

“My RCIA journey has very much been a journey of the heart.” At a Jesuit friend’s Vow Ceremony in 2004, she felt a “stirring in (my) own soul.” While at the novitiate, she spent time in the library reading books on Jesuit spirituality. “Everything just began to resonate within me.... I knew in my heart that I was being asked to explore the Catholic faith.”

Kelly found St. Peter’s on the internet, and began the Inquiry phase of the RCIA process. “The Advent and Lenten retreats deepened my faith journey and my appreciation for the beautiful practices of Ignatian Spirituality. As time went on, I felt like all my spiritual wanderings and wonderings had finally found a home. St. Peter’s is a warm and accepting place where I feel loved and supported as I learn, worship and grow in my relationship with God and His Church.”

### **Brittany Rowan**

Brittany is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and moved to Charlotte about 2 years ago. She and Brendan Grady (son of Mike and Mary Grady) are the parents of a newborn baby girl. Although her full-time job is a stay-at-home mom, she also finds time to do some catering work on the side.

Brittany says that she has always been curious about the Catholic faith and was eager to go when invited to attend Mass at St. Peter’s with Brendan’s parents. She was very moved and decided to attend the RCIA classes where she has the opportunity to ask questions and explore the faith. Brendan and his parents have always been supportive and helpful in answering all of her questions. Brittany is grateful to them and, in particular, to her sponsor, Doneata Grisdale, for being interested in her and for offering to help her on this faith journey

### **Yilong Sunn**

Yilong was born in China and immigrated to the United States in 1986. After graduating from college in 2000 he worked in Raleigh before moving to Charlotte. Yilong and his girlfriend Bianca began attending St. Peter’s in June of 2005. They found St. Peter’s on the internet, attended Mass and found it so welcoming they continued coming back to Sunday Mass.

Yilong did not grow up with religion and never really considered it until witnessing the love of God through his best friend, a devout Christian. That admiration and personal experience of faith led Yilong to learn more about Christianity. At St. Peter’s Sunday Bible Study he met Doneata Grisdale, a parish RCIA leader, who invited him to RCIA classes.

Says Yilong of RCIA, “Since I joined the group it has become a second family to me. I enjoy the interaction and look forward to our weekly meetings. The people at St. Peter’s are wonderful. I love the community.”

### **Mark Wadding**

Mark is married and a native of Dubois, Pennsylvania. Because he has been in Charlotte since 1990, he thinks he can *almost* be considered a native Charlottean! Mark works as an IT professional at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. His sponsor is his wife, Loretta, which he finds to be an ideal arrangement because they are able to discuss the RCIA events and learning materials at home throughout the course of the week.

When looking for a parish home, Mark and Loretta visited several different parishes. Once they attended Mass at St. Peter’s, they knew it was the parish for them. They both like the friendly atmosphere they experience here and are impressed with the fact that parishioners participate actively in the Mass.

### **Robert Ward**

Robert and his wife, Stephanie, are the parents of two boys. He and his family moved to Charlotte in 1994 from Alexandria, Virginia. Stephanie is serving as his sponsor on this faith experience. “The RCIA program has been an interesting journey; it has revealed to us much about ourselves, the Church, and even about one another.”

Describing St. Peter’s as a wonderful parish, Robert recently had the opportunity to volunteer at the Room in the Inn evening. “It was a very rewarding experience,” he said. “The men were so thankful.” Robert recommends this service experience for other parishioners, as well.

*Fritz Rafe and Gloria Walls*



# John Collier: The artist behind our sanctuary art

Late last summer, John Collier was selected from a group of four finalists to create the artwork that will adorn the sanctuary. He is both a painter and a sculptor. Mr. Collier's preliminary renderings include a primary painting and two sculptures in bas relief.

The painting will fill the center of the reredos behind the altar, depicting the scene from John 21: 15-17 in which Jesus prepared breakfast on the shore and asked Peter, "...do you love me more than these?" On either side of the altar will be two sculptures in bas relief. One will depict St. Katharine Drexel, who was one of the founding benefactors of our parish, with the Madonna and Child. The other will depict St. Ignatius looking upward at Jesus on the cross. A homeless man stands opposite St. Ignatius.

John Collier was chosen from over 30 sculptors to create the Catholic Memorial at St. Joseph's Chapel, near Ground Zero in New York City. He created four sculptures for the chapel: St. Michael, St. Joseph, St. Mary Magdalene and St. Florian. When asked what he hopes the families of 9/11 will sense when they visit the Chapel, he said, "Every person has the ordinary experiences of their lives that they relate to, and everyone has the intuitive feeling there's something more important behind everything. It's the intersection of those two ideas that gives meaning to our lives."

Mr. Collier has won numerous awards for his artwork. Among them are 14 gold and 10 silver medals from the Society of Illustrators. He also received the Society's prestigious Hamilton King Award in 1994.

Most of Collier's art is now devoted to the creation of liturgical art. He is currently working on two major outdoor sculptures for Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in West Virginia.

The artwork being created for our sanctuary is in keeping with the heart and soul of St. Peter's parish in Charlotte and the Jesuit tradition. The contracts have been signed and it is projected that the work will be completed in twelve to eighteen months.

Mr. Collier is married and makes his home in Plano, Texas. Bob and Cynthia Dunegan recently visited him there and took this photo of him in his studio.

*Eileen Crusan*

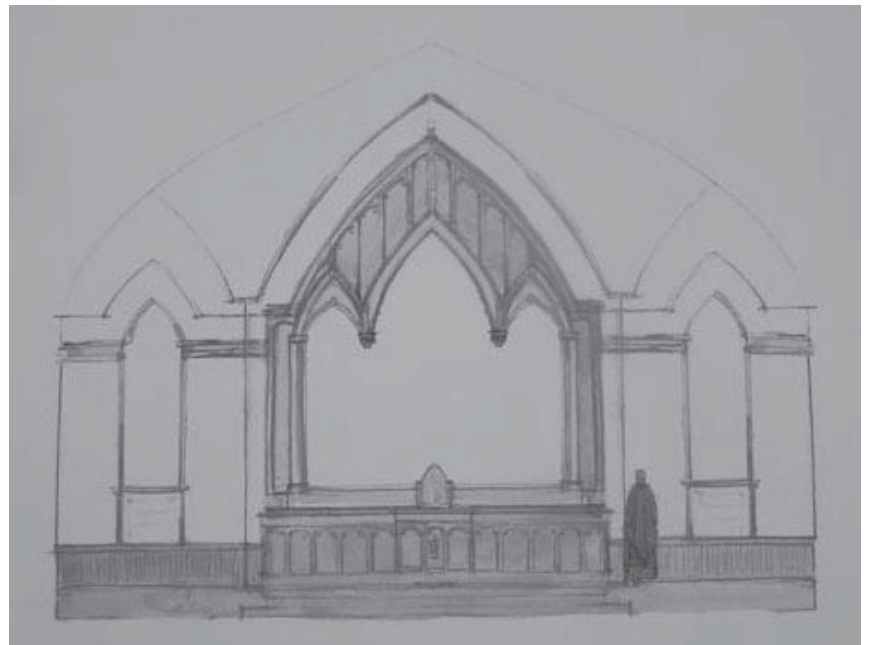


St. Florian, patron of firefighters, at Ground Zero memorial

John Collier in his studio



Detail from a Collier crucifix



Preliminary sketch of our reredos, which will stand behind the altar

# Baptisms

Allyson Marie Di Fiore, daughter of Anthony & Theresa  
 Cooper James Giliberto, son of Paul & Jennifer  
 Samantha Gonzalez, daughter of Ralph & Eileen  
 Elaina Rowan Grady, daughter of Brendan & Brittany  
 William Clayton Hair, son of Stuart & Beth  
 Nowlan Ryan Haseley, son of Jeff & Beth  
 Jonathan Hagen Helms, son of Jonathan Hugh & Judith  
 Joseph Layne MacKay, son of Douglas & Margaret  
 Matias Nieves, son of Erich & Maria  
 Kay Rose Nowlan, daughter of Andrew & Blanca  
 Saradine Pierre, daughter of Renand & Marie  
 Gerardo Ramirez, son of Andrew & Blanca Nowlan  
 Alexander James Riess, son of Justin & Amanda  
 Alex Daniel Robinson, son of Craig & Judith  
 Mirabel Margaret Taylor, daughter of William & Mary Alice



Jonathan Spencer and Colleen Casey  
 November 19, 2005

Jason Cranford and Susan Purviance  
 January 8, 2006

## Death anniversaries



### March

Jo Ann Wood – March 13, 1997  
 Eugene Houghney – March 17, 2001  
 William Jeffers – March 18, 2004  
 Joan Kennedy – March 24, 1997  
 Joseph Mallamo – March 24, 1998  
 Michael Kleban – March 24, 1999

### April

Morris Donald – April 1, 2005  
 Mary Wilmer – April 3, 2002  
 Billy Rice – April 4, 1997  
 Betty Halcin – April 7, 1998  
 Thomas Condon – April 14, 2005  
 Edward Klerlein, Jr. – April 21, 2005  
 James Holway – April 23, 1997  
 Joseph Headen – April 25, 1998  
 O'Ferrell McGee – April 25, 2005  
 Malvina Salem – April 30, 1994

### May

Patrick Valder – May 7, 1990  
 Sam Diggle – May 8, 2002  
 Ethel Means – May 9, 1998  
 Ramon Suarez – May 22, 1998  
 William Liske – May 24, 1999  
 Norma Edwards – May 25, 1998  
 Keith Kennedy – May 27, 1992

## Recent deaths

Yvonne Long	December 5, 2005
Dr. Jennepher Hart Micalizzi	January 8, 2006
Paul Johnson	February 15, 2006

## New parishioners

**We warmly welcome you and hope to meet you at  
 Sunday morning Coffee and Conversation and at other parish events and ministries**

David and Cherie Behrens  
 Donato Bonacquisto  
 Maria Castelar  
 Erin Corden  
 Robert and Maureen Fanelli  
 Louse Fitzsimons  
 Raili Gillooly  
 John & Monica Godshall  
 Brendan Grady and Brittany Rowan  
 and Elaina  
 Robert Grayson

Eric and Kristen Knudsen  
 Michael and Teresa Lanier  
 Pamela McMillan  
 Philip Meador  
 Stephen Nett  
 Kelly Payne  
 Tyrone and Ashley Samson  
 Robert and Jeanne Steiner  
 Katie Tuohy  
 Robert and Debby Wallace  
 and Michael & Michelle

# From the bookshelf of . . .

Fr. Vince Alagia, S.J.



**A Stay Against Confusion: Essays on Faith and Fiction,**  
by Ron Hansen. Harper Collins, 2001.

I think the best way for me to describe this book is by citing the titles of a number of chapters: Writing as Sacrament, Faith and Fiction, What Stories Are and Why We Read Them. It then takes a look at a number of significant spiritual and literary people. To name a few: Ignatius Loyola, the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. Then writings by Leo Tolstoy and John Gardner. There is, as well, a rich appreciation of a prayer familiar to most of us: "Soul of Christ" (Anima Christi). The author looks at life's great moments and difficult moments. As one reads, the title becomes evident. It is an enjoyable journey through literature that has touched our society. Many of you will remember Hansen's novel, *Mariette in Ecstasy*. Enjoy it. It can be picked up and put down as one chooses the essays.

## Your feedback is needed!

**Please answer these questions and place answers in Sunday collection, or mail to church.**

**The purpose of this newsletter is to provide news that pertains to our parish, its members, and their activities.**

1. Is *Transparencies* a necessary vehicle to communicate with parish members? If yes, why? If not, why?
2. Which features or topics do you find *most* interesting or useful?
3. Which features or topics do you find *least* interesting or useful?
4. What parish topics not currently covered would you like to see in future issues?

## To all groups or committees using the Biss Hall kitchen

Please leave the kitchen clean and put all items/utensils back in their marked cabinets at the end of your use.

All food remaining after an event must be removed once the event is over.

We cannot store food in this kitchen.

Many hands make light work, so please try to keep this a clean, safe and healthy area.



Building and Grounds Committee



## Sweeten your Lent

Spirituality, fellowship, reflection and entertainment will mark our Fridays in Lent this year. St. Peter's will host the Stations of the Cross, a potluck meal, and "Chocolate for Lent," a creative spiritual program using the movie *Chocolat*. All parishioners are encouraged to join us for some part of these offerings.

As in past years, our Friday evenings will begin with the Stations of the Cross in the church at 6:30 p.m. Different versions will be offered each week, so there are ample opportunities for meditation and growth.

In conjunction with Operation Rice Bowl, our potluck meals focus each week on a Third World Country and a typical dish from its region. Parishioners are invited to bring a salad, bread or beverage to share. You and friends from other parts of the world are strongly encouraged to share your heritage, music and culinary treats. This year's countries are: March 3–Kenya, March 10–Vietnam, March 17–Nicaragua, March 24–Afghanistan, March 31–Zambia, and April 7–United States and El Salvador. Please call or e-mail Clint at the parish office if you would like to participate as part of a meal team preparing soup or the weekly featured dish.

After the meal, adults and young adults are invited to join a Lenten series featuring the film *Chocolat*. This unique approach to Lent creates a comfortable environment for insights into ourselves, our acceptance of Christ and that ongoing relationship. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> we will watch the film in its entirety and on subsequent Fridays, view a clip and participate in discussions, readings and meditations.

Open your heart and mind to a new experience of Lent, share a meal or meditate on the Stations. You may never look at Lent the same way again!

Clint Hunsche

# “A great cloud of witnesses” – Jan. 14-16

*Since we are surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses, let us ...persevere in running the race which lies ahead; let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. —Hebrews 12:1-2*

St. Peter’s parish was well represented among the 1,790 men and women from 49 states and 6 foreign countries who attended the first “Politics and Spirituality Conference” in Washington, DC, January 14-16. Participants heard 3 dynamic speakers stir them first to contemplation and then to action.



Jim Wallis, E.J. Dionne, Anne Lamott, Fr. Richard Rohr

The featured speakers for the gathering were: Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners and author of *God’s Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn’t Get It*, Anne Lamott, a humorous literary writer and columnist who converted to Christianity and is the author of *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, and Fr. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan of the New Mexico Province, popular lecturer, founding director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, and author of *Radical Grace* and numerous books and audio-tapes on spirituality. E. J. Dionne, of the Washington Post, served as moderator for the Sunday night round table conversation.

The conference opened with a beautiful prayer service centered on a reading from Isaiah 32:16-18: “In the wilderness



Banners of some “witnesses”: Franz Jaegerstaetter, Dom Helder Camara, Etty Hillesum

justice will come to live, and integrity in the fertile land. Integrity will bring peace, and Justice alone will give lasting security.” The auditorium was slowly encircled with banners depicting a “great cloud of witnesses”: Martin Luther King Jr., Mohandas Ghandi, Dorothy Day, Simone Weil, Archbishop Oscar Romero and 18 other men and women from Moses to the present, who were recognized for “getting it right.”

Registered participants were fed by commentaries on the Good News, personal accounts of spiritual journeys and political observations that helped all to think in terms of inclusivity, rather than along party lines. We spent the weekend in prayer, discussion and worship. An ecumenical Communion service presented a creative approach to meditate on the gospel of the day and created a sense of spiritual unity among those of many beliefs.

The weekend concluded with a public Prayer Walk and Witness at the U.S. Capitol on Martin Luther King Day. The conference, which was sold out and had an overflow room for 300 extra people, was timely for a nation torn and divided by political strife and seeking a way to find understanding and compromise in order to grapple with such issues as the environment, social justice and world hunger.



Prayer walk and service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The next conference is scheduled for September 2006 in Pasadena, CA. Like its predecessor it will undoubtedly be “a positive and public example of religion and politics working together in a mutually enlightening way.”

Those attending from St. Peter’s were: Jerry and Dee Fox, Annie and Trace Hebert, Helen and Gene Katz, Jan and Barney Offerman, Mea and Mark Pierman, Linda and Alex Sanchez, and Ann Weber.

To read the post-conference reports and learn more about the speakers, go to:

[http://www.cacraddicalgrace.org/conferences/politics/politics\\_overview.html](http://www.cacraddicalgrace.org/conferences/politics/politics_overview.html)

<http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm>

*Alex Sanchez and Annie Hebert*

# Lenten Schedule



March 1	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Masses	Church:	7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:10 p.m.
Mar. 1–	Daily	Mass every day	Church	7:30 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.
Mar. 3–Apr. 7	Fridays	Stations of the Cross	Church	12:45 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
		Rice Bowl Potluck	Biss Hall	7:00 p.m.
		Viewing and discussion of <i>Chocolat</i> (see pg. 8)	Annex	8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
March 11	Saturday	Lenten Guided Prayer begins	Annex	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
March 14	Tuesday	Parish Reconciliation Service	Church	7:00 p.m.
March 18	Saturday	Lenten Guided Prayer ends	Annex	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
April 12	Wednesday	Tenebrae service	Church	7:00 p.m.
April 13	Thursday	Celebration of Lord’s Supper	Church	7:00 p.m.
April 14	Friday	Good Friday Services:		
		Reconciliation	Church	11:00 a.m. – noon
		Stations of the Cross	Church	noon
		Passion (Centenary Payers)	Church	1:00 p.m.
		Liturgy	Church	1:30 p.m.
April 15	Saturday	Easter Vigil	Church	8:00 p.m.
		Reception	Biss Hall	after Vigil
April 16	Easter	Masses at:		7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
		Easter Egg Hunt	The Green	10:00 a.m.

## St. Peter’s finances doing better, but . . .

Have you looked at the “Financial Matters” box in the Sunday bulletin recently? St. Peter’s is running a *surplus!* This means that operating receipts (including the weekly Offertory and all unrestricted donations) exceeded our expenses for the first six months of our fiscal year, through December 31. The surplus is not expected to continue as recent Sunday collections are not keeping pace with our budget.

This surplus is due mostly to Christmas and year-end contributions. To all of you who stepped up and increased your giving during that period, our deepest thanks! You are making it possible for St. Peter’s to continue offering the kind of spiritual nourishment for ourselves and our families that we all need and expect.

However, please don’t let down now. A surplus like this can vanish quickly if we do not sustain giving week to week. Also, as you can see from the bulletin, our capital campaign spending is now exceeding our capital campaign contributions, so that we are required to dip into our cash reserves to fund the final buildout of Phase IV (the columbarium and garden in the back of the church). Once we deplete our cash reserves, we will be required to take on debt in order to meet our commitments. So we need to keep the contributions coming.

Again, many thanks! —and let’s keep it up!

Deborah Delano, Finance Chair

**St. Peter's  
Six Months**

**Consolidated Balance Sheets  
December 31, 2005 & June 30, 200**

	December		June		Net Operati for the Six			Memo: Dec. 2004
	2005	2005	2005	2005	YTD Budget	Variance to Budget	Dec. 2004	
<b>Assets</b>								
Cash & Cash Equivalents								
Operating Accounts	\$102,509	\$10,340			\$313,000	\$20,619	\$299,557	
Savings Reserve	(2) 0	68,565			0	0	3,459	
Restricted Funds	379,795	245,874			0	16,248	12,877	
Investment Accounts	(2) 329,215	721,393			2,750	(1,537)	5,841	
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$811,519	\$1,046,173			1,170	(647)	2,711	
Property, Plant & Equipment	4,606,439	4,179,719			0	3,915	1,040	
					17,500	(17,500)	8,375	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$5,417,958</u>	<u>\$5,225,892</u>			375	240	0	
Deferred Income: Columbarium	(3) \$32,000	0			1,250	475	600	
					0	0	0	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$32,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>			2,956	9,759	5,225	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>\$5,385,958</u>	<u>\$5,225,892</u>			<u>75,000</u>	<u>33,430</u>	<u>122,306</u>	
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<u>\$5,417,958</u>	<u>\$5,225,892</u>			<u>\$414,000</u>	<u>\$79,003</u>	<u>\$462,591</u>	
					0	(14,000)	(5,841)	
					0	(3,915)	(8,375)	
					(75,000)	(33,430)	(122,306)	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$366,657</b>				<b>\$339,000</b>	<b>\$27,657</b>	<b>\$326,069</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>								
General Parish	\$279,753	\$281,048			\$281,048	(\$1,295)	\$274,950	
Faith Formation	44,452	46,879			46,879	(2,427)	46,566	
Ideal Way	8,784	11,073			11,073	(2,289)	12,877	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$332,989</b>	<b>\$339,000</b>			<b>\$339,000</b>	<b>(\$6,011)</b>	<b>\$334,943</b>	
<b>Net Operating Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(1) \$33,669</b>	<b>\$0</b>			<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$33,669</b>	<b>(\$8,274)</b>	

**Notes:**

- (1) For the six months ended December surplus of \$33,585, which is due to the C donations. The surplus is not expected to are not keeping pace with our budget.
- (2) The decline in the savings reserve an a result of the spending related to the ren over the summer months, as well as capit contributions.
- (3) We have begun selling the columbariu collected to date.
- (4) Questions can be addressed to Debor

## Executive Committee 2005-2006

Angela Bauer	Celia Klein
Kevin Bezner	Michael LaVecchia
Tony Bucci	Mark Pierman
Deborah Delano	Steve Rickman
Barbara Dellinger	Jacqui Stevens
Daphne Dwyer	Judith Toman
Richard Hoard	Patti Tracey
Fr. Joe Sobierajski, SJ	

### Masses at St. Peter's

Monday–Friday	12:10 p.m.
During Lent	7:30 a.m.
Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m.
	11:00 a.m.
	5:00 p.m.
Holy days	7:30 a.m.
	12:10 p.m.
	5:10 p.m.

Email address: [office@stpeterscatholic.org](mailto:office@stpeterscatholic.org)  
Phone: 704-332-2901

## Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Peter's Parish of the Diocese of Charlotte, desire to grow in faith and in union with Jesus Christ and with one another. Through worship, prayer, ecumenical outreach, education and action we seek to respond to the challenges of the Gospel in Uptown Charlotte and throughout the world. We strive to become a place of welcome and reconciliation to each person who comes to us; a people of faith impelled by love to reach out in service to the city and beyond; a community guided by a preferential love for the poor.

We shall pursue this mission faithfully, imploring the power of the Holy Spirit for the gifts needed to accomplish it.

## Upcoming events

Ash Wednesday	Mar. 1
Directed retreats	Mar. 11- Mar. 18
Bible study, 6 p.m.	Mar. 12
Reconciliation Service, 7 p.m.	Mar. 14
Bible study,, 6 p.m.	Mar. 26
Bible study, 6 p.m.	Apr. 2
Potluck dinner, 5 p.m.	Apr. 19
Bible study, 6 p.m.	Apr. 23
5th Sunday breakfast	Apr. 30
First Eucharist, 1 p.m.	May 7

## Ongoing events

Daily Mass in Lent—7:30 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.  
Room in the Inn—every Monday night  
Stations of the Cross, Rice Bowl dinners,  
film discussion—Friday nights in Lent  
Peace and Justice—1st & 3rd Tues., 7 p.m.  
Uptown Shelter visits—4:30 p.m., 3rd Sat.  
Soup Kitchen—3rd Sat., 9 a.m.

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507 S. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202