

SAINT PETER'S NET

JESUS SAID TO PETER, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE."
MATTHEW 4:19

From the Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

This is that time of the year when Episcopal Churches traditionally hold their Annual Meetings. Ours will be held on Sunday, February 9, when we report on the previous year's accomplishments and our goals for the coming year. New members will be elected to the vestry as well as delegates to the deanery and convention. As we renew our commitment to the mission of the church, we are reminded that St. Peter's exists to serve as God's agent in doing His mission in the world.

Important as our roles may be in this great enterprise, there are times in our lives of ministry when we can feel a lack of passion in doing the same ministries for years. The novelty has worn off, and drudgery sets in. Sometimes we feel as if we are trapped in doing what appears to be monotonous work, especially when no one seems to want to take it over from us. Joyful ministries thus turn into unrewarding chores. We ask ourselves, "How can I find joy and a sense of satisfaction once again in being part of this team doing God's mission?"

As we begin a new year of ministry, let us refresh ourselves by examining our calls to serve and see how soulfully we are engaged in this work. Let's get back to finding our lost love for the church, for worship, for mission, for fellowship and for God. Let's ask ourselves how can we experience the presence of God in what we are doing? How is it with my soul? When we take part in the church helping others to experience God, let us not forget to experience God ourselves. The story of Martha and Mary from the gospels comes to mind. While Martha was busy with cooking in the kitchen to feed Jesus and disciples, she forgot to feed herself spiritually. Being busy doing ministries in the church without paying attention to how they are feeding our souls is recipe for burnout and resentment.

I am proud that we have so many lay leaders, and for a small church like ours, we are engaged in numerous initiatives and ministries. While there is an overall decline in membership and average Sunday attendance in many churches, we are more than holding our own with empowered and energetic members. However, I submit to you, we could maintain this sort of momentum only if we personally experience the presence of God in the very ministry we are called to do. In his book, "Leading from Within" Parker Palmer says, "A leader is a person who must take special responsibility for what's going on inside his or herself, inside his or her consciousness, lest the act of leadership create more harm than good." We can be better at our ministry when we begin to see the importance and significance of how it makes meaning for us and connects us to God.

Dear fellow members and missionaries of our church, let us begin this new year of God's ministry with great intentionality in seeing and experiencing God's presence in the very ministry God calls us to be in.

Blessings, *Koshy*

Mission Statement: We are an inclusive, forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks to grow in Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you."

Vision Statement: Our vision at St. Peter's is to be an inclusive, vibrant Christian community honoring our Episcopal heritage by achieving excellence in worship, mission, education and fellowship.

Staff

Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, Rector
Rev. David Hyatt, Assisting Clergy
Rev. Joseph Dietz, Deacon
Retta Sparano, Liturgical Coordinator
Nicholas Lodico, Organist/Choir Master
Alexander Smith, Assistant Organist
Judith M. Dougherty, Parish Secretary
Maria Yanez, Sexton

Vestry

2014 Tracy Parker
Rebekah Ray
Gary Russell
2015 Susan Madden-Cox
John Magee
Retta Sparano
2016 Barbara Endrey
Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker

What's Happening At St. Peter's

February 2014

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Deacon's Roundtable

In January, we began a new method of conducting Bible study between the 8 and 10 o'clock services. We are hoping this will be attractive to more of our family. The class begins around 8:50 and concludes at 9:45.

The class is made up of a series of DVD lectures on the Hebrew Scriptures better known to us as the Old Testament. The lecturer is Professor Amy-Jill Levine. She is the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. She earned her B.A. with high honors in English and Religion at Smith College where she graduated *magna cum laude*. Her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion are from Duke University. Before moving to Vanderbilt she was the Sara Lawrence Lightfoot Associate Professor and chair of the Department of Religion at Swarthmore College.

Dr. Levine was initially prevented from teaching New Testament in the Divinity School at Duke because the administrator did not think it appropriate that a Jew would teach this material. "You can teach Old Testament," he told her. "I don't do Old Testament," she said; "You do now," was his response. Thus began her ever-growing fascination with the subject of the twenty four lectures she presents in this class. She has been teaching both Old and New Testament classes ever since.

I have listened to all of these lectures and find them very enlightening coming from the Jewish perspective. Dr. Levine also weaves her knowledge of the New Testament into the explanation given in teachings in this series. Each lecture is 30 minutes and we will have some time for discussion afterwards.

By the time you read this we will have listened to three lectures dealing with the Creation Saga, Adam and Eve, and the sagas of Cain and Abel, the Flood and the Tower of Babel. Future lectures include the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), Moses, the Covenant, Judges, Samuel and Saul, King David, King Solomon,

the Prophets, the Babylonian Exile, the restoration of the Kingdom under Cyrus and concludes with the Wisdom Literature and the Apocalyptic literature.

We have all heard and read these stories in the Biblical context and now we have the opportunity to listen someone give us a down to earth, easy to understand explanation of the importance of these episodes from the Biblical text. Hope to see you soon.

In Christ's Love,

Deacon Joe

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February 9
One Service Only



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please plan to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 9. There will be one service that day at 10:00 AM. Fr. Koshy will deliver his Rector's report from the pulpit and other significant reports will be given verbally during the service. The vestry will be available for questions during coffee hour which follows the meeting.

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Do you have a set of 2014 Giving Envelopes? If not, please contact the Parish Office and a box will be issued to you.

Dollars and Sense
News from your Accounting Warden
Retta Sparano



Year-to-date Income/Expense through December 31, 2013

INCOME

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Pledge | \$206,617 |
| Open Plate | 28,330 |
| Clinic Rent | 18,500 |
| Easter/Christmas | 2,745 |
| Use of Building | 2,150 |
| Flowers/Candles | 1,452 |
| Miscellaneous | 18 |
| TOTAL Income | \$259,812 |

EXPENSE

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Diocesan Giving | \$ 13,200 |
| Personnel | 165,692 |
| Worship | 7,900 |
| Administration | 31,743 |
| Mission | 5,682 |
| Ministries | 6,968 |
| Property | 51,625 |
| TOTAL Expense | \$282,810 |

The above income and expense reflects budgeted items. Detail of the “pass-through” accounts such as mission, pantry, rector’s discretionary fund and specially designated funds will be included in annual report on February 9, 2014.

Balances as of December 31, 2013

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Checking | \$ 17,139 |
| Savings | 36,364 |
| Certificates of Deposit | 11,565 |
| Youth Group | 1,532 |
| Mission | 1,317 |
| Pantry/Outreach | 17,444 |
| Concert Series | 1,772 |

Thank you for your financial support of our parish. The vestry-approved budget for 2014 will be presented at the annual parish meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2014

St. Peter's Food Pantry

Doreen Penczer



We ended the year with a very successful Christmas pantry, serving over 110 families. Again thank you all for your generosity we couldn't do it without you.

We started the new year with our new format which is very popular with our clients. It is so rewarding to see the pleasure on their faces as they make their own choices, instead of getting a bag handed to them.

As we move along with our new format, we will be counting on your continued support and hope that by suggesting just a few items it will make it easier for you to decide what to get. We would appreciate donations of "small sizes" versus "large family size" cans or jars.

I know I must sound redundant, but I can't thank you enough for your support and hope you are all proud to be part of a parish that is so generous...I know I am.

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El Salvador Mission

Cindy Hamaker



The missions committee is excited about the opportunity coming up this summer during week of July 12 to 19 in El Salvador with Cristosal.

St. Peter's has joined with Cristosal every year since the first El Salvador mission in 2008. Through these years, Cristosal and its' mission has evolved under the direction of Noah Bullock and is defined as "an independent, faith-based nonprofit organization that accompanies or partners with the people of El Salvador in their struggle for peace, justice and reconciliation."

The experiences with Cristosal in El Salvador are now an enriching/learning type of experience through Cristosal's School of Global Engagement. This educational model consists of "courses designed around experiential learning opportunities in which students engage with Salvadorans to study global issues in local context." You can learn much more about Ctristosal by going to their website at www.cristosal.org.

The missions committee determined that our area of focus of learning this summer will be on women's empowerment and related issues. This area of focus is also in line with our interest in supporting Cristosal's collaboration with the women in the village of La Anemona, where our missionaries have visited for the past 3 years, to build a financially sustainable business. We plan to spend some time to learn and connect with these women as they work towards their goal of greater financial independence.

There are openings for this wonderful enrichment opportunity and please me know if at all interested or have any inquiries at chamaker1@gmail.com. Attending the missions meetings is also encouraged for all those interested. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5th at the church at 7:30PM.

Also, please mark your calendar for a free pancake breakfast after 8 and 10AM services on Sunday, March 2nd hosted by the missions committee. We hope to have a great turnout to enjoy some nice fellowship time together!

Thank you for your support of this invaluable mission of St. Peter's.

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2014 Vestry Candidates

Vincent Giancaterino

My name is Vincent Giancaterino. I was born in south Philadelphia in 1959 to second generation Italians. My father, Rocco, was a graphic artist and my mother, Theresa, was and still is a homemaker. I have two sisters and an older brother. My working career began at age 13 working for Taluto's, an authentic Italian pasta manufacturer, where I learned my core cooking techniques.

Sports, cooking and spending time with my family are my main interests. I married my wife of 33 years, Cynthia, in 1980. She was my childhood friend from the neighborhood. After 7 years of trying to start a family, we were told to adopt, as the doctors advised us that it would be impossible to have children on our own due to complications from a surgery Cindy had previously.

A short time later, Cindy attended a prayer group with her mother and felt completely out of place because the people that attended this group had far worse troubles. So we decided to adopt. Six months later Cindy became pregnant with our first daughter, Marisa. The doctors told us divine intervention was the only way they could explain her pregnancy. We had two more daughters, Adriene and Vinae.

As our faith grew we began to feel unfulfilled in the cradle of the Roman Catholic Church. After opening two restaurants in the local area we decided to move to Spring City from Plymouth Meeting where we were blessed with our first grandchild, Vincent. The rules of his baptism that the church set forward stated that the baby's father could not participate in the baptism because he was not a Catholic. This propelled us away from the church and toward the Episcopalian discipline.

From our first visit to Saint Peter's we felt comfortable. We were greeted with warmth and understanding which left us with the feeling that we belonged here. Father Koshy asked me "what has Saint Peter's done for me since I have

joined?" The simple answer is that before joining I attended mass maybe ten times a year and now I miss mass maybe ten times a year. This is where I want to be and I would feel honored for the opportunity to serve on the vestry. I feel there is much I can do to serve the church and to be a better servant of the Lord. We have greatly enjoyed our short time as members and look forward to engaging and growing with this wonderful congregation.

Judith Hans

I have been a member of Saint Peter's since moving to Phoenixville in 1979. Don and I were married by Father Evans in November of 1979 and Saint Peter's has been an important part of my life for nearly 35 years. My children grew up in the church; I taught Sunday school for several years while my children were young.

During my years at Saint Peter's I have served on many ministries and committees. Most recently, I have shared chairmanship of the New Member Ministry/Growth Committee, which started at the Evangelism Committee in the early 1990s. I previously served on vestry while Father Evans was rector, through the interim period with Hank White, and during Tom Wand's ministry.

I am employed by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit as a speech-language pathologist. I recently finished two terms on the Board of Directors at the Clinic. When not at work or at Saint Peter's, I enjoy reading, exercising and spending time with Don, friends, and family at our home in North Coventry Township and Cape May Point, New Jersey.

Julia Sharpe

My husband Eric and I joined St. Peter's in the spring of 1997 when we were searching for a local church in Phoenixville. I was raised as a Byzantine Catholic, and joining another denomination would be quite an experience. Attending my first Episcopal service felt like home, but even better, with the warmth and

friendliness we experienced, St. Peter's became our new home of worship. We were married by Father Carter in October, 1997.

After 13 years raising a family and working weekends, we realized we had lost our devotion and direction, and concluded we would permanently change our life's pattern by becoming involved with the church's mission and dedication to the community. Today, this continues to hold true.

Since my return to St. Peter's, I have been involved in the New Member Ministry, and served as a confirmation mentor. I support and attend Cristosal mission meetings, instruct the youth group, and provide gardening services on rotation. Personal involvement within the ministries has strengthened my faith and accountability to serve others and our parish.

Serving others has been my life, following the example my father gave in raising a family of 5 while working endless hours growing a small business. His purpose in life was to help those less fortunate while not expecting anything in return other than self-satisfaction. I attribute his dedication and compassion to helping others for my own personal accomplishment and achievements as a nurse the past 36 years. I have been employed at Chester County, Phoenixville and Brandywine Hospitals, and currently work in the Endoscopy unit at Paoli Hospital. My passion and purpose is to continue serving those in need of medical care and offer education to make their lives more complete.

St. Peter's encourages us to get involved in our place of worship and in the community to extend our compassion in life beyond our workplace. From my father's kind heart, and Father Koshy's devotion to our church community, I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the vestry.

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February Birthdays



- [2] Ron Druckenmiller, Zack Martin
- [3] Jake Vargo
- [4] Brittany Rennie
- [5] Owen Szerenyi
- [6] Trey Warkala
- [7] Naomi Grunwell, Jonie Coleman
- [8] Lynn Fraker Warren Campbell
- [9] Lisa Brock
- [12] Mariel Weiss
- [15] Robert Birkbeck
- [16] David Hyatt, Averlyn Browne
- [17] Bill Sullens
- [18] Jan Wier
- [19] Ryan Wier, Michael Paster
- [20] Mike Logar
- [21] Susan Krzemienski
- [22] Eric Quaintance

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COME . . .



My friend, you'll find a welcome here.

So pause a while to meditate.

**Here bring the burdens of your mind, with
all the pains of your heart you bear.**

**Just bring them here, and
take instead the Way of Christ:
the peace it brings,
the love it shares,
the service it inspires;
will be to you the Way, the Truth, and the
Abundant Life.**

A quote from the First Christian Church of Sebring, Florida

Worship Service Participants

February – 2013

Acolytes

- 2 Jacob Schaefer
Brittany Alling, Sydney Alling
9 Thomas Hammaker
James Hammaker, Natalia Tackett
16 Brandon Rennie
Michael Logar, Ian Schiavone
23 Vernet Spence-Brown
Katie Parker, Colin Parker

Greeters – 8:00 am

- 2 Jack Susskind
9 ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.
16 Glenn Murray
23 Joan Grunwell

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 2 Mary Tackett, Lady Rennie
9 Kim Thornton, Vernet Spence-Brown
16 Carol Smith, Mike Logar
23 Cindy Giancaterino, Anne Andrews

Lectors – 8:00 am

- 2 Todd Jackson
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
9 ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.
16 Peggy Kandle
23 Ron Gaugler

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 2 Trevor Hall, Courtney Logar
James Jackson *intercessor*
Carol Russell, Phil Howse *chalicists*
9 Henry Young, Nicholas Lodico
Susan Mathews *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
16 Family Service – Jan Wier to select participants
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
23 Carol Smith, Retta Sparano
Vernet Spence-Brown *intercessor*
Phil Howse *chalicist*

Ushers

- 2 Carl Rennie, Jon Martin
9 Carl Rennie, Jon Martin
16 Carl Rennie, Jon Martin
23 Carl Rennie, Jon Martin

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TAKE TIME TO....

to **Think**: it is the source of power

to **Play**: it is the secret of perpetual youth

to **Read**: it is the fountain of wisdom

to **Pray**: it is the greatest power on earth

to **Love and Be Loved**: it is a God-given privilege

to be **Friendly**: it is the road to happiness

Author Unknown

