

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 Church,

Happy New Year!

At the start of a new year, people ask each other: "So what is your new year's resolution this year?" After years of making and breaking resolutions, I didn't see any point in it, so would say: "My resolution this year is not to make any" even though the urge is still there. Perhaps I should rethink this whole question of whether to make or not make a resolution. If I keep an open mind about it, it could become my new resolution.

Keeping an open mind; Wow - what a great idea! Kind of like a V-8 moment as in the TV commercial. As the liturgically oriented people we are, it would be hard for us not to notice that Epiphany, a principal feast of the church, is there at the beginning of the year for a reason. Just as the wise men from the east were open to the manifestation of the divinity in baby Jesus, we are called to be open to new epiphanies, to new and fresh ways of seeing God's presence with and within us. It would call on us to begin anew, to look at others and ourselves in new ways.

As a church, we are entering 2014 following a year of remarkable achievements. This past year we celebrated our 175th anniversary with events throughout the year. Our church served as a place of sustenance for more people in our neighborhood than anytime before. With the change in curriculum to Godly Play, we now have a full program for children and youth. Our lay leadership in various ministries is as solid as ever. I'm also happy to report to you that your vestry has just voted on a balanced budget for the year 2014. Friends, we have much to celebrate as we begin a new year. However, this is not something we should feel smug about as we have new epiphanies to behold, to be surprised by and to act upon.

According to church prognosticators, huge shifts are in the offing as far as the future of church is concerned. We have already moved from the era of Christendom, the period in which Christian faith defined the culture, to post-Christian era when church's influence on society is severely weakened. In the coming years, as our society becomes more pluralistic, multi-ethnic, multi-racial and secular, doing church as we used to will be a relic of a bygone era. How do we do church in this new context? We are told to not fear and lose heart. Our Good Book says, 'been there and done that.' Each time God's people faced existential threat in the past, God spoke through the prophets of old, "Behold, I am about to do a new thing in your midst," and He did.

Let's behold the new thing God is doing in our midst. Our future is in God's future for us. To behold and to act on God's new epiphanies for us, we must

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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 January 2014

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be willing to accept fluidity, flux, change and growth. And we must be willing to let go of our fear of the uncertainties and the unknowns. Let's together step into God's future for us.

My resolution for the New Year is to be open to God's surprises for me. What's yours?

Peace,

Koshy

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Deacon's Roundtable

Do you know what prayer is? It is conversation, discussing our thoughts with God. The example has been set for us by the many prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures and especially by Jesus himself.

After preaching in the synagogue at Capernaum, healing the sick and driving demons from those possessed, he went out to a lonely place and prayed (Luke 4:42). Again, before Jesus selected the twelve to become his apostles "he went out to the hills to pray; and all night he continued to pray to God." (Luke 6:12)

Jesus set the example for us. What better way to start the New Year than to take time each day, go to a quiet place alone, and have a conversation with God. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. They saw how prayer strengthened him, gave him a sense of mission and the comfort he gained from conversing with his father. They wanted to learn how they could draw closer to God and feel his presence in a deeper way. Don't we want to do the same?

Jesus taught them to say, "Our Father ..." In Aramaic the word for Father was *Abba* or to literally translate it "Dad." From the very beginning Jesus teaches us to see ourselves as children looking to God for encouragement,

love and guidance. God created each and every one of us to love as though we were the only person alive. He knows we are imperfect but is willing to forgive us of any missteps we have made and give us his undivided attention. God wants to hear from us on a regular basis, not just when we need something. He wants us to tell him about what is going on in our lives and, if we listen, will guide us in the way that will be pleasing to him. Prayer is a two way street. We must be willing to stop and listen for the voice of God in our deepest being.

God the Father is perfect. He needs nothing. In spite of this God chooses to be involved in our lives. God chooses to love us as his only children. He doesn't need that love, but he cherishes every moment we spend with him. God is always patient, kind and merciful. Take the time to open your heart to God and let him speak to you as the kindly Father that he is. Listen! God is trying to say something to you.

In Christ's Love,

Deacon Joe

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Annual Reports for 2013



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 9, 2014. The following reports are needed for inclusion in the 2013 Annual Report.

Deadline: January 26th

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Children's Chapel
- Counters
- Deacon's Report
- Financial
- Godly Play

Missions
 Music/Choirs
 NM/Growth
 Outreach
 Pantry
 Property
 Rector's Report
 Senior Warden's Report
 Stewardship
 Ushers
 Worship Committee
 Youth Group

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Who's Who



Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke

Mike and Rosemarie were friends for over 30 years, having both worked for Honeywell, Inc. After Rosemarie took an early retirement in 2000, they lost touch with one another until one day in June 2004, when Mike called Rosemarie and asked her to meet him for lunch. At that time he told her that he and his wife were in the process of a divorce and he was staying with his friend, Wayne.

Soon after, they had their first date and as they say, "The rest is history." They were engaged on Christmas 2008 and married on May 14, 2011.

They both enjoy folk music, especially Celtic and Bluegrass, and attend many such festivals throughout the year. Mike likes NASCAR racing, golf, working on cars, and watching the stock market. He is also a very capable handyman and has done numerous

improvements to their home. Rosemarie enjoys cooking (Mike does the clean-up), crossword puzzles, and gardening. They also enjoy football (GO EAGLES) and deep sea fishing and their favorite TV show is "Jeopardy." Mike has a son, Michael, and a daughter, Alicia. Both are married with 2 children each. Spending time with the grandkids (Andrew, Ellie, Alyssa, and Shane) is one of the best joys of their retirement. Rosemarie has three sisters, Alma, Toni, and Charlotte, a niece, Andi, and a nephew, Rusty.

They are very happy to be part of the Saint Peter's family and look forward to seeing everyone during worship on Sunday, Bible study, and at volunteer ministries.

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Stewardship Committee Report



Your Stewardship Committee strives to communicate the importance of pledging to the overall financial health of St. Peters and the various missions of the Church. The in-gathering campaign begins with our First Fruits message, continues with various testimonies of our committee members on six separate Sundays, and culminates mid-November when we provide a bountiful coffee hour of delicious food and treats.

The results at this point (Dec. 16th) of the 2014 In-Gathering campaign are somewhat similar to the previous year. To date, we received 61 pledges compared to 65 in 2012. However, monies pledged have increased, totaling \$209,468 in 2014 vs. \$202,910 in 2013. Of the 61 pledges received in 2014, 26 remained the same, 7 decreased their pledges, 25 increased their pledge, and there were 4 new pledges. The committee continues to follow up with parishioners that we haven't heard from, so I'm

certain our final tally to be reported during the annual meeting should show improvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Hans, on behalf of

Iris Blanche, Susan Madden-Cox, Diane Hope, Eric Sharpe, Dave Brennfleck, and Don Hans

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Youth Group

Gary Russell

Our Youth Group has been very active this Advent season with activities and service projects. On Sunday, December 15, a group went to St. Peter's Place to serenade the residents with Christmas carols and songs of good cheer. This is a most joyous occasion for the youth members as well as the elderly folks there, and the joy is shared together. This same day was a festive occasion for dinner together and the sharing of gifts in a Yankee swap. A jolly time ensued.



The day before, several youth members along with St. Peter's adults volunteered their time at Goodworks, Phoenixville, to make repairs to a home in need of weatherproofing for the cold winter months.

Another service project for Christmas was decorating and collecting gifts for the Advent Tree. This year's gifts will go to Good Samaritan Men's Shelter in Phoenixville, where we also have provided volunteer help by painting client rooms and freshening hallways. We know our young people are being exposed to the ideal of service to others, as Jesus taught. That must be why three members of the youth group turned out to help shovel snow on one of our heavy snow days. They worked hard and are powerful snow movers!

And did you know that the members of the Confirmation class conducted a clothing drive and made winter clothing available to our pantry clients? This was most appreciated by those who may not be able to afford good warm clothing during the winter months.

Thanks to all our youth who give of themselves and to their teachers who guide them.

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What Is A Vestry?



There are nine (9) members on St. Peter's Vestry, serving a three (3) year term, with the option of running for reelection for a second term. Each year at the annual meeting in February, at least three (3) parishioners are nominated to fill the vacancy of the retiring members.

The Vestry meets with Father Koshy the 4th Wednesday of each month for two (2) hours to conduct the business of the parish. We open our meeting with check-in, prayer, and approval of previous meeting minutes. The meeting continues with Rector's report and discussion on a variety of agenda topics. We work hard, have fun together and are there to represent the congregation.

Each vestry member serves as a liaison to one of the ministry committees. Serving on the vestry is a way to share your time and talent and become involved in support of the mission and vision of St. Peter's Church.

All parishioners are welcome to attend vestry meetings. Please know you are welcome to join us and see how we work together for the parish. If you would like further information on what it means to be a vestry member, please speak to any of the current members or Father Koshy.

Dollars and Sense
News from your Accounting Warden
Retta Sparano



Year-to-date Income/Expense through November 30, 2013

INCOME

Pledge	\$186,144
Open Plate	24,777
Clinic Rent	16,500
Easter/Christmas	2,193
Use of Building	2,120
Flowers/Candles	826
Miscellaneous	18
TOTAL Income	\$232,578

EXPENSE

Diocesan Giving	\$ 13,200
Personnel	152,108
Worship	7,388
Administration	28,976
Mission	5,382
Ministries	6,342
Property	47,475
TOTAL Expense	\$260,871

The above income and expense does not reflect the “pass-through” accounts such as mission, pantry, rector’s discretionary fund and specially designated funds. Detail is available upon request.

Balances as of November 30, 2013

Checking	\$ 11,548
Savings	36,360
Certificates of Deposit	11,565
Youth Group	1,532
Mission	1,110
Pantry/Outreach	19,150
Concert Series	1,484

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

Godly Play Update

Amy Brodar

As most of you know, we are now about halfway through our first year of our new Sunday School program, Godly Play. The transition has gone better than any of us could have hoped! The children are loving the stories. And have been amazing helpers during Feast and clean-up time. We recently had the children make Advent wreaths for their families, and visited next door to St. Peter's Place for a story and some caroling!



If you want more information on how you can be involved in this amazing program, contact Amy Brodar at 484.459.9583 or Jan Wier at 610.213.1214.

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Mission Citrus Sale Update

Cindy Hammaker (610-933-3806; chammaker@verizon.net)

The citrus sale was a nice success with raising \$1200 for the 2014 El Salvador mission! Thank you to everyone who participated in the sale. The fruit was very good and flavorful this year too!



The mission committee will meet on January 15th at 7PM in the church and anyone interested in the mission/outreach of the church is very

welcome to attend. Also, if you have any interest in participating in a summer, 2014 inspirational trip with Cristosal in El Salvador please contact Cindy Hammaker or Gary Russell.

We have enjoyed our partnership with Cristosal since our first year serving in El Salvador. It is a great honor for our church to be united with such an organization which promotes a rights-based developmental approach and an equal partnership with the El Salvadorans as they forge a brighter future for themselves and their community. Our attention in 2014 will focus on a particular project of Cristosal's in a community called La Anemonas where we have visited for the past 3 yrs. and have gotten to know its' people. This project involves empowering women and encouraging sustainable prosperity by working with them to develop skills needed to form a small business. It is wonderful that St. Peter's can have a strong impact through our relationship with Cristosal in promoting such an invaluable project that will enhance the lives of so many!

Thank you again for your support of the great mission work of St. Peter's!

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January Birthdays



- [3] Sue Meadows, Phyllis Byndas
- [4] Madeline Tosco, Todd Jackson
- [5] William Tackett
- [8] Susan Ibach, Lana Brock, Noah Hatton
- [10] Joseph Vargo
- [11] D. J. Brock
- [16] John Andrews, Edwin Hartman
- [20] Daniel Hammaker
- [22] Michael Mitten
- [23] Brandon Rennie
- [27] Judi Hans
- [29] Kacie Vargo, Stephanie Mitten, Nick Martin

January Worship Service Participants

Ushers ~ 10:00 a.m.

Acolytes

- 5 Jacob Schaefer; Megan Magee
Brittany Alling, Sydney Alling
- 12 Thomas Hammaker
James Hammaker, Michael Logar
- 19 Vernet Spence-Brown
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 26 Brandon Rennie
Ian Schiavone, Libby Andrews

- 5 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 12 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 19 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 26 Clem Young, Sam Smith

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 5 Jack Susskind
- 12 Lisa Reid Scott
- 19 Glenn Murray
- 26 Joan Grunwell

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 5 Cindy Giancaterino, Judi Hans
- 12 Marva Young, Anne Atlee
- 19 Robert Blauser, June Blauser
- 26 Anne Andrews, Pat Howse

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 6 Ron Gaugler
Lisa Reid Scott *chalicist*
- 13 Peggy Kandle
- 20 Lisa Reid Scott
- 27 Peggy Kandle

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 5 Brittany Alling, Iris Blanche
June Blauser *intercessor*
Carol Russell, Joanne Arnold *chalicists*
- 12 Phoebe Foerster, Joanne Arnold
Carol Russell *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 19 Marty Bloem, Katie Druckenmiller
David Brennfleck *intercessor*
Phil Howse *chalicist*
- 26 Joyce Paster, Libby Andrews
John Burkhardt *intercessor*
Joanne Arnold *chalicist*