

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,

The Epiphany season was long this year, and it appeared even longer with the harsh winter weather. Yes, it has been a winter of great discontent. But take heart; Spring is coming, and Lent is just around the corner. When I think of Lent, the image that comes to my mind is one where I am standing at a waterfall holding a cup in my hand to get some water to drink. The force of the waterfall is such that I get hardly any water in my cup. However, as I move to the outer edges and hold my cup where the water trickles down, I get my cup filled and I can sate my thirst.

The season of Lent is spiritually so rich a period in the church calendar that unless we carefully and mindfully place ourselves to imbue of its many blessings we could completely lose it. It's a season that calls us to a deepening and strengthening of our life of faith. The Book of Common Prayer invites us to "the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word." I am happy to inform you that our church offers you a variety of opportunities to benefit from if you choose to do so. We have prepared a separate tract outlining these opportunities for easy reference and you may also find a copy of it elsewhere in this issue of *The NET*.

At our Diocesan Convention in early November, 2013, Bishop Clifton Daniel proposed a challenge in his address to the delegates to try to live for few weeks on \$30 a week, the average Food Stamp/SNAP benefit roughly 41 million fellow Americans receive from the government. Could we take up this challenge during the six weeks of Lent and Holy Week as part of our spiritual observance? Taking up this challenge would help us understand the struggle that low-income families face day in and day out. And any money saved can be contributed to our food pantry, mission work with Cristosal and Service Project in Appalachia. Other opportunities include:

- Sunday morning Bible study and meditation
- Tuesday evening study on *Embracing the Prophets* by Walter Brueggemann, a noted theologian and Old Testament scholar.
- Friday observance of Stations of the Cross at 7 Pm in the church
- Wednesday Community Ecumenical Lenten Services in various churches

I hope you find these opportunities for service, study, reflection and self-examination helpful to strengthen and deepen your life of faith. I trust that you will come out of your Lenten journey with your cups filled to the brim with your spiritual thirst quenched and your longing for God satisfied.

I wish you a blessed Lent,

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*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2015 Susan Madden-Cox
John Magee
Retta Sparano
2016 Barbara Endrey
Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker
2017 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe

What's Happening At St. Peter's March 2014

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Deacon's Roundtable

Lent begins with our observance of Ash Wednesday on March 5. We will hear these words from the prophet Joel: "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning." (Joel 2:12). We all know that Lent is a season of fasting and penance, but what does God urge first of all? Again Joel tells us: "Rend you hearts and not your garments." (2:13).

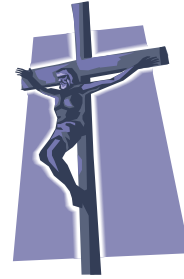
We are to rend—split open—our hearts, not try to change them ourselves. Yes, during Lent we repent, which does change our hearts. But the goal is not for us to make ourselves flawless. Who could do that anyway? Jesus tells us not to make a display of our penance. Rather than become concerned about how our actions are perceived, God wants us to make our hearts fertile ground for the Holy Spirit, so that God might transform us "in secret."

How does this happen? The Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts as we give alms, pray and fast. By taking up these traditional practices with open hearts focused on the Father and not on our actions, we allow the Spirit to fill us with divine love. We allow God to make us more passionate for Jesus and more compassionate toward others. As a result, we begin to think and act just as Jesus did.

The Holy Spirit wants to make us confident in God's love for us and for others. God wants to make us merciful toward those who need mercy; willing to oppose sin, both in us and in the world; and be open to the possibility of the miraculous. It all begins as we rend our hearts, plowing up ground for the Spirit to sow her seeds. Let's make this Lent a time of overflowing grace! In the quiet of our hearts, let's take up Jesus' threefold promise: "Your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matt. 6:4, 6, 18).

In Christ's Love,
Deacon Joe

Stations of the Cross



Designed for devotional purposes, the Stations depict incidents in the last journey of Christ from Pilate's house to His entombment. They are commonly arranged around the walls of a church and, during Lent and Passiontide, we visit the Stations to recite prayers and meditate on each. As the early pilgrims in Jerusalem followed the traditional route from Pilate's house to Calvary, stations were reproduced for similar devotion at home. The 14 Stations are:

1. Christ is condemned to death
2. Christ receives the cross
3. He falls for the first time
4. He meets His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross
6. Christ's face is wiped by a woman
7. His second fall
8. He meets women of Jerusalem
9. His third fall
10. He is stripped of His garments
11. He is nailed to the cross
12. Christ dies on the cross
13. His body is taken down from the cross
14. His body is laid in the tomb

(The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

At St. Peter's we observe the Stations every Friday during Lent at 7PM and on Good Friday at 1:30 PM. The observance of Stations can serve as a point of encounter with God. The danger is that it can be dulled by repetition. However, one of the ways we can revitalize liturgy is through anticipation and expectancy that we are about to have an encounter with God. I hope more of us will make use of the observance of the Stations during this Lent as a discipline to strengthen our relationship to God.

Fr. Koshy

Lenten Services



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2014

****Bishop's Challenge Begins
Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes**

7:00 a.m.

12 Noon

7:30 p.m.

****Bishop's Challenge: Living on \$30 for food per week.** This is the reality of 41 million fellow Americans today. At the Diocesan Convention, our Bishop posed a challenge before the delegates to try to live on \$30 a week for a few weeks. Why don't we at St. Peter's, take up this challenge during Lent and Holy Week, not only to understand and become aware of the plight of fellow Americans but also to donate the savings we might realize from this challenge to feed the hungry in our neighborhood [pantry], support the work of Cristosal in El Salvador and to help with our Appalachia Service Project? It will also serve us a good Lenten discipline.

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday – 7:00 p.m.

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***A Service for Reconciliation and Peace
In the world
In our hearts
In our lives***

Sunday, March 16, 2014

During the service, there will be an opportunity for each of us to offer our concerns and desires

for reconciliation. To participate, there will be paper and pencils to jot down whatever is in your heart, and then bring that to the front of the church to place in a container to be burned. Special prayers and music for forgiveness and reconciliation will be included in the service.

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Phoenixville Community Wednesday

Lenten Worship - 7:30 pm

Exodus: Slavery into Freedom



Parting the Red Sea by Chinese Artist He Qi

March 12: Moses at the Burning Bush

St. Ann Roman Catholic Church
604 South Main St., Phoenixville
Preacher: Rev. Jim Hallam

Valley Forge United Methodist

March 19: Deliverance at the Red Sea

Centennial Lutheran Church
1330 Hares Hill Rd, Kimberton
Preacher - Rev. Scott Dorn

Otterbein Methodist, Mont Clare

March 26: Bread from Heaven

Grimes AME Church
338 Morris St, Phoenixville
Preacher: Rev. Arlene Greenwald
Interim Pastor, St. John's UCC

April 2: The Ten Commandments

St. John's Lutheran Church
355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville
Preacher: Rev. Mark Young
First United Methodist, Phoenixville

April 9: Song of Moses; Death of Moses

First United Methodist Church
865 Main St, Phoenixville
Preacher: Rev. Russell Mitman
Parkside United Church of Christ

ALSO

Lenten Midweek Vesper Services
 Washington Memorial Chapel
 Wednesday Evenings, March 12 thru April 9
 7:00 p.m.
 See poster in Smith Room for details

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Music @ St. Peter's Fundraiser:
 Beer/Wine Basket Raffle & Dinner



Saturday, March 15 – 6:00 p.m.

This fundraiser is being held to help support our 2014-2015 Concert Series. We will be joined by the Tim Wolfe Jr. Jazz Ensemble providing some wonderful entertainment for the evening. Prices are \$10 in advance \$15 at the door. Anyone willing to donate a wine/beer basket is entitled to 1 free ticket. Baskets must be at church by March 2 upon which time raffle tickets will be sold following church services. Come out for an evening of great music and great food!

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A Thought About Stewardship

Diane Hope

Gratitude is a currency that we can mint for ourselves, and spend without fear of bankruptcy.

I came across this quote and it has a particular resonance with me. It plays to the concept of

infinite abundance, a wonderful concept we would all like to experience at one time in our lives. To dream of such a thing, substitute the word "time" for gratitude in this quote. I have often wondered what it would be like to be able to pause time, just for a day, or a week, or a month. Imagine having all the time we would like to have to spend on anything, or nothing. Imagine having all the time to do the things we have left undone. It would be marvelous.

Now substitute the word "money" for gratitude in this quote. We need only to look at the popularity of the lottery to know that most people would love an infinite abundance of money. Studies have shown that even thinking about what changes a winning lottery ticket would bring causes an elevation in mood. Minting money for ourselves would be a heady experience, but I doubt the FBI would approve.

So let's get back to the word gratitude. Indeed, it is a currency we can mint for ourselves and spend without fear of bankruptcy. In the midst of our terrible winter weather and power outages, our house had a small generator that provided intermittent heat and one power outlet for light. I was grateful for that small reprieve from the cold and darkness. This week, I saw three robins perched on snowy branches. I was grateful for the certainty that Spring will come eventually this year to bring warm weather and flowers. Feel free to spend your gratitude. Indeed, it is a currency you can mint for yourself.



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Dollars and Sense
News from your Accounting Warden
Retta Sparano



Year-to-date Operating Income & Expense through January 31, 2014

INCOME

Pledge	\$ 21,629
Open Plate	1,197
Clinic Rent	1,500
Easter/Christmas	
Use of Building	300
Flowers/Candles	10
Miscellaneous	

Total Operating Income	\$ 24,666
Pass-through income*	<u>11,023</u>
TOTAL Income	\$ 35,689

EXPENSE

Diocesan Giving	\$ 1,486
Personnel	15,909
Worship	67
Administration	1,048
Mission	2,500
Ministries	
Property	4,969

Total operating expense	\$ 25,980
Pass-through expense	<u>15</u>
TOTAL Expense	\$ 25,995

***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 are available on request. Most of these pass-through funds reside in separate designated accounts.**

Balances as of January 31, 2014

Checking	\$ 14,828
Savings	36,364
Certificates of Deposit	12,055
Youth Group	1,532
Mission	1,735
Pantry/Outreach	27,437
Concert Series	1,704

Thank you for your financial support of our parish.

Mission Outreach

Cindy Hammaker
chammer1@gmail.com

The El Salvador 2014 mission is slated for July 12-19 and it looks like there will be several new missionaries this year which is great news! There are still openings for this trip and youth in grades 9 through college are also encouraged to participate in this spiritually enriching opportunity. Please contact me at the above email address if you are interested. This year's experience will connect St. Peter's with the people of El Salvador through Cristosal which 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." Cristosal's School of Global Engagement will encourage our group to have a focus of learning while there, and connections with the people will be enhanced with this focus. Our area of focus this year will be on women's empowerment and related issues. We will continue our connections with the women in the village of La Anemona as we learn of and support their work to becoming financially independent by creating a sustainable business. You can learn more about our mission with Cristosal by going to Cristosal's website at www.cristosal.org.

On March 2nd, there will be a free pancake breakfast after 8 and 10a.m. services hosted by the Missions Committee. We hope to have a good turnout as this is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and celebrating the great missions of St. Peter's! It's also a nice way for the committee to thank you for all of your support!



Also, during the season of Lent, please consider donating one dollar a day as you reflect on those less fortunate around the world who have to live on just a dollar a day. You can place each donation per day in a provided envelope and return the envelope on Easter Sunday. One half

of the received donations from this act of giving will be given to Cristosal and the other half will go towards defraying the cost of the trip for missionaries.

Thank you very much for your support of this mission of St. Peter's that has such a great impact on so many!

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Who's Who?



The Dorais Family Jesse, Kelly, Olivia and Raegan

After meeting in college, Jesse and I moved to Phoenixville. We began attending St. Peter's together in 2008, when we were planning our marriage. We loved the intimate feel of this church and how well all the members knew each other and their families. Everyone was so welcoming. We had our wedding in the church June 6, 2009 and continued to attend while we lived in Phoenixville. We now live in Gilbertsville, PA. We moved shortly after we got married and started our family a few years following. When we found out we were pregnant, with TWINS, we started discussing how we wanted to raise them and in what church. We decided we wanted St. Peter's to be a part of their lives. We had our twin daughters; Olivia Grace and Raegan Louise baptized in St. Peter's and have been attending since. We now have our third baby on the way, due April 10th and look forward to introducing him or her to St. Peter's as well.

March Anniversaries



[17] Phil and Pat Howse

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March Birthdays



[2] Dave Meadows; [3] Nancy Giampietro, Abigail Szerenyi; [15] Olivia Trexler, Carrie Wanish; [16] Sydney Alling; [17] Rachel Schaefer; [27] Kiersten Ibach; [28] Anne Andrews, Daniel Morse; [29] Jack Andrews; [30] Wendy Vargo, Stephanie Sutter, John Newman; [31] Rosemarie O'Rourke

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Worship Service Participants

March – 2014

Acolytes

2 Jacob Schaefer
Brittany Alling, Sydney Alling
5 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
Thomas Hammaker, James Hammaker
9 Brandon Rennie
Michael Logar, Ian Schiavone
16 Vernet Spence-Brown
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
23 Thomas Hammaker
James Hammaker, Kavita Hivale
30 Jacob Schaefer
Brittany Alling, Sydney Alling

Greeters - 8:00 am

2 Jack Susskind
9 Lisa Reid-Scott
16 Glenn Murray
23 Joan Grunwell
30 Jack Susskind

Greeters – 10:00 am

2 June Blausen, Robert Blausen
5 7:30 Judi Hans
9 Pat Howse, Anne Atlee
16 Carol Smith, Marva Young
23 Kim Thornton, Judi Hans
30 Lady Rennie, Mary Tackett

Lectors - 8:00 am

2 Todd Jackson
Lisa Reid-Scott *chalicist*
9 Todd Jackson
16 Ron Gaugler
23 Peggy Kandle
30 Lisa Reid-Scott

Lectors – 10:00 am

2 Curt Quaintance, Jan Wier
Brittany Alling *intercessor*
Joanne Arnold, Joyce Paster *chalicists*
5 7:30 Marty Bloem, Joanne Arnold
John Burkhardt *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
9 Georgette Druckenmiller, Courtney Logar
Iris Blanche *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
16 Ron Druckenmiller, Katie Druckenmiller
Joyce Paster *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
23 June Blausen, Curt Quaintance
David Brennfleck *intercessor*
Phil Howse *chalicist*
30 Beverly Burkhardt, Shelly Brennfleck
Trevor Hall *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*

Ushers

2 Robert Parker, Curt Quaintance
9 Robert Parker, Curt Quaintance
16 Robert Parker, Curt Quaintance
23 Robert Parker, Curt Quaintance
30 Robert Parker, Curt Quaintance

Lent at St. Peter's Church: My Lenten Resolves

This is a way in which I will worship during Lent to bring myself yet closer to Christ:

(e.g., I will attend a Eucharist each week during Lent, I will observe Stations of the Cross, I will sit with others in meditation on Sunday mornings)

This is something I will do without for the sake of the poor whom Christ loves:

(e.g., I will challenge myself to live on \$30/week for food, I will participate in the Dollar-a-day Donation Cristosal Mission work, I will contribute to the Pantry, I will donate to St. Peter's Appalachia Service Project.)

This is something I will do educate myself better about my faith Christian faith this Lent:

(e.g., I will attend Sunday Morning Bible Study, Tuesday Evening Lenten Study, Wednesday Evening Community Lenten Service during Lent)

This is a relationship I will seek to heal, for the sake of God's desire for us to live in love.

(e.g., I will attend the reconciliation service on March 16, I will initiate to reconcile with a member of my family or a colleague at work from whom I am estranged.)

On Ash Wednesday, I will consciously ask for forgiveness and begin the journey to overcome each of these issues that trouble my life and my relationship to Christ:

(e.g., how I use time, talent and treasure, gifts from God; how I use my privilege, language, food, alcohol)

These are strengths, gifts of God that are manifest in my life, which I will seek to better develop during this Lent:

(e.g., Creativity, faithfulness, capacity to listen, mindfulness)