

# 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 Friends and Members of St. Peter's,

This is that time of the year when we who live in the northern hemisphere experience the change of seasons in a more perceptible and visceral way. The pageantry and splendor of fall begins to succumb to the inevitability of the barrenness and frigidity of winter. Morning comes late and night falls early. Even after living here most of my adult life, I still find winter months as something not desirable and wish it wasn't part of the seasons.

However, winter has much to teach us about life, death, and rebirth. It is when we live according to the rhythm of nature that we thrive and become fully human. I learned recently that a chicken can lay an egg every twenty-five hours if it gets fourteen to sixteen hours of sunlight. So naturally, chickens lay less eggs during winter months when there is a shortage of sunlight. However, commercial farmers circumvent the natural cycle by keeping chickens under artificial light throughout the day to boost productivity. This is exactly what we are doing to ourselves by not living in natural rhythm. Our production oriented consumerist society keeps us on the rat race we are on taking more and more from us. Just as a chicken needs rest from its egg laying activity, we too need rest from our labors. Even God rested after six days of creation, and commanded us to observe Sabbath day and keep it holy. As we are about to begin the season of Advent, let us be conscious and intentional about taking Sabbath, a time for resting and pondering like mother Mary was when Gabriel told her that she was the chosen one to bring the God-Child into the world.

Today we live in a time of great anxiety. War, terrorism, wide-scale human displacement and migration, climate change, etc., all taking place simultaneously, making us feel like we're living on the edge of a precipice. At a time like this our human tendency is to fight or flight. Self-serving leaders shamelessly use this anxious period to their advantage by further stoking fear and hatred toward the other. People are encouraged to reject the voices for moderation, balance, and a steady hand at the wheel. What we lack today is a Mary-like quality to ponder and reflect. Whenever people went through periods of anxiety, the Biblical refrain is always, "Fear not, lo, I am with you always."

As the season of Advent, leading to Christmas, is upon us, let us, as followers of Jesus, observe Sabbath time by rejecting the calls for more production, consumption, isolation and vengeance. Let us be more reflective about living in the rhythm of life, in tune with nature, in harmony with creation and fellow human beings, and in balance with how God intends us to live.

May we hear God's voice to us, 'Fear not, lo, I am with you always,' in the din of our times, and may we truly experience the blessings of this season of Advent!

*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

Very Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, *Rector*  
Rev. David Hyatt, *Assisting Clergy*  
Rev. Joseph Dietz, *Deacon*  
Rev. Dennis Coleman, *Deacon*  
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*  
Karen Greene, *Organist/Choirmaster*  
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*  
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

### Vestry

2015 Raymond Forester  
Cindy Hammaker  
2016 Vincent Giancaterino  
Judi Hans  
Julia Sharpe  
2017 Frank Rothenberger  
Retta Sparano  
Jan Wier

### How to contact St. Peter's

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## What's Happening At St. Peter's

December 2015

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## Deacon's Roundtable

As we move through Advent and approach Christmas let us ponder what transpired as Jesus came down to earth to live with us.

As we all know and confess, Jesus is the eternal Son of God. Before coming to earth He lived with the Father in heaven, surrounded by angels, filled with divine glory and majesty. He was in need of absolutely nothing. The glory is that Jesus gave up all of that, his place and power, to come to earth and walk with us. He who ruled the universe chose to submit himself to a human body—to become like us in every way except sin—so that we would know His love.

Why would Jesus do this? Why would He choose such a humble, selfless way to come to us? He made the transition out of pure love.

This Advent, we should focus on this promise that we are loved and cherished by God. We want to experience how God's love can open our eyes and fill us with joy and peace.

Jesus wants us to really and truly experience His love, not just think about it. He wants to move our hearts so that we can say—from experience and not just theory—that God loves the world so much that he sent his only Son to be with us and rescue us from the ravages of sin.

This is the gift God wants to give us this Advent season. No matter how much we know—or don't know—God wants to give us more. Maybe we feel like the shepherds, watching and waiting. Maybe we feel like Joseph, already deeply committed to the Lord and His ways. Or maybe we feel like the wise men on the road and still searching. It doesn't matter. God wants to open our hearts and take us to a deeper relationship with Him.

As Christmas nears, let us try to follow the example Mary set; to treasure God's wonderful gift to us, and ponder the magnitude of the Gift given to us.

Finally, let us ask Jesus—who is Emmanuel, God with us—to fill us with his unfailing love.

Shirley and I want to wish each of you an expectant Advent and a Holy and Blessed Christmas.

Blessings in Christ's name,  
*Deacon Joe*



## A Word From Deacon II

In 1621 the European settlers invited the American people to a three day festival. Perhaps they were grateful for the way that they had been treated as refugees in this new land. They called it Thanksgiving. President Washington named the fourth Thursday of November as an annual day of Thanksgiving. President Lincoln made it a national holiday. The first President Bush added a unique new way to think about this day, when he pardoned a turkey, and sent it off to retirement rather than the butcher. Every president since has pardoned a turkey. It's a pleasant tradition.

For quite a long time, I have had a personal tradition. I think about the people that I am particularly thankful for in the past year...and then I tell them. I thank them. It's a personally helpful little thing for me, to recall my gratitude and then act on it.

As I began thinking about this past year, I found myself being drawn to Mr. Bush's pardon more than anything else.

The world seems to be trying it's best to divide us into groups of friends and enemies. For each of us, I'll bet that there is someone that has angered or hurt us personally. And so we all walk around with a glowing coal of hate, or, anger or distrust in our bellies.

For Thanksgiving this year I am working on giving out pardons. Pardons for the murderers, and for those who hate. For those who wish to keep folks that are in peril out of a country that once welcomed all. I am pardoning all of those who have hurt me.

The cool thing is that they'll never know. They don't need to, it's something for me. It's also something that was done for me. By the grace of God I am pardonable for any hurt that I have caused.

That by itself calls for a hearty Thanksgiving.

What a Lord we have indeed.

*Deacon Dennis*



## December Deadlines

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
all 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016 Schedules

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Flower Offerings  
Articles/dates for the January 2016 *NET*

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
***Final date*** to receive financial contributions for 2015. This will be the last bank deposit made in 2015.



2015 Advent Tree  
November 29 to December 20  
Recipient: The Clinic



Our neighbor, The Clinic, is funded entirely by donations and grants, and requires a continuing flow of contributions in order to be able to provide medical services to their patients. Items on their wish list include:

- Children's coloring books and crayons
- Postage stamps
- Sticky post-it notes – any size, any color
- Paper towels

- 13-gallon white trash bags
- Large, heavy-duty garbage bags
- Self-stick letter size envelopes
- 50 or 100 count Advil, Motrin or Tylenol
- Disinfecting wipes
- Children's Band-Aids
- Infant diapers
- Grocery store gift cards
- Unopened white, pink, yellow, blue copy paper
- Children's books in English and Spanish
- Avery mailing labels, #8160, 5390, 5395, 8464
- White #8 lunch bags (found at Costco/500pk)

Please take a tag from the Advent Tree, replace it with a star, and share your many blessings by providing some much-needed assistance and Christmas joy to the families who are helped by The Clinic.

Our gifts will be blessed on December 20th and delivered on December 21st.

If you purchase gift cards, please give them to Retta Sparano for safe-keeping. Other items may be put in the baskets by the tree.

**St. Peter's is a generous parish, and let's make this year exceptional.**



## A Note From Our Food Pantry

We had a wonderful thanksgiving pantry on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. 110 persons attended, totaling about 300 folks served, plus 26 at St. Peter's Place and 27 on the Monday evenings pantry. The Chester County Food Bank was able to supply us with enough turkeys for everyone.

We got a wonderful surprise at the end of pantry on Saturday from one of our faithful parishioners and pantry volunteer, Mary Jo Wells. Her son, Tate, is active in a local scout troop. Through Mary Jo's encouragement, the local scout council made St. Peter's Food Pantry the recipient of their holiday food drive. Four trucks arrived with over 3100 items! Needless to

say we were overwhelmed. It was one of the biggest donations we have ever received. You can't imagine how wonderful it is to see our shelves so full.

The pantry continues to need reusable bags, so please keep your donations of the bags coming.

Please take time this upcoming holiday season, to reflect and be proud that you are part of a church, that through your support, is able to help so many needy people in our community. God bless you all



## Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent – December 13



We are now celebrating our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent. As a way to prepare our hearts and mind for the Feast of Christmas. This year it will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 pm in the church with guests and friends from area churches.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is said to have originated at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England as a service on Christmas Eve starting about 10 pm. This was the bishop's way of keeping men out of the public houses on Christmas. Through the ages the service has been adapted and many festivals are now celebrated with a service of Lessons and Carols. Most notably King's College, Cambridge celebrates their Christmas Lessons and Carols and is a sought after treasure on radio stations around the world on Christmas Day. Clearly, we at St. Peter's have found a far better purpose for our Lessons and Carols than to keep the bars empty at Christmas; preparing for the journey to the birth of our Savior.



## 2016 Giving Envelopes



Giving envelopes will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please ***DO NOT*** use them until Sunday, January 3, 2016! If you do not find a box with your name, contact the Parish Office and a box will be prepared for you. **EVERYONE** is encouraged to use Giving Envelopes for accounting purposes.



## Christmas Altar Flowers



You are invited to share in the joy of beautifying our church for the Christmas Season. There is NO suggested contribution amount. Your offerings can be made as a memorial or thank offering, **PRINTING all names clearly**. Please, email your memorial/thank offering to the parish office, or place it in the weekly offering plate. **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> is the DEADLINE**. All names will be included in the Christmas bulletins.



## Cookie Exchange



Our annual cookie exchange will be held on Sunday, December 20 after the 10:00 service. All are invited to participate. Bake several dozens of your favorite cookies and trade them for other delicious cookies. How are they exchanged? For example, if you bake three dozen cookies, you take home three dozen assorted cookies. All are guaranteed to delight your families and friends!

## Christmas Services



### *Thursday, December 24*

- 4:30 p.m.** Children's Pageant;  
Family Eucharist  
**8:00 p.m.** Choral Music  
**8:30 p.m.** Choral Festival Eucharist

### *Christmas Day – NO Service*

### *Sunday, December 27*

- 8:00 a.m.** Eucharist  
**10:00 a.m.** Lessons and Carols; Eucharist



## Godly Play



Advent - it is now time for the color purple. Purple is the color of kings and queens. It is a serious color, and something serious is about to happen. A King is coming, but he is not the kind of king that people thought was coming. This King was a baby who was born in a barn.

In Godly Play, the children will spend 4 weeks getting ready for Christmas. On Advent 1, November 29<sup>th</sup>, we will create Advent wreaths to take home for each family. Each week we'll build on the journey to Bethlehem. We'll travel with the holy family, hear the angels, visit the shepherds, and receive the three king's gifts.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be selecting parts for our pageant on Christmas Eve. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, we'll practice during class time. The pageant will take place on Christmas Eve at the 4:30 service. Children should arrive at 4:00 to get their costumes on, and get ready.

No Godly Play class on December 27<sup>th</sup>. Class resumes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Wishing a Blessed Christmas to all of our families!



## December Celebrations

### Birthdays



- [1] John Kostenly
- [2] Sophie Prell
- [3] William De Prado, Penny McClimon
- [6] Sarah Hammaker
- [7] Charlotte Roberts
- [10] Don Hans
- [11] David Schaefer
- [12] Karen Mitten
- [15] Bryn Hamilton
- [22] Ethan Smith, Georgette Griffith
- [23] Charlotte Rothenberger
- [25] Anne Holbrook
- [26] Christopher Hope
- [27] Tripp Wilson
- [28] Natalie Famous
- [29] Marty Bloem
- [31] Kunal Hivale

### Anniversary

- [11] Colin and Anne Holbrook



## Financial Update: October 2015

*Frank Rothenberger, Treasurer*



The financial position of St. Peter's through October, 2015 is outlined below.

- Income
  - Total open plate donations and pledges were \$206,063 which is \$2,237 under budget.
  - Total operating income was \$252,851 which is about \$20K above the budgeted amount of \$233,350 primarily because of \$6K in fundraising income and about \$13K reported as miscellaneous income for insurance proceeds from the garage fire claim. All repairs related to the fire claim have been completed and expensed.
  - Total income, including pass-thru income of \$45,629, was \$298,480.
  
- Expense
  - Total operating expenses were \$238,760 which were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$14,091.
  - Operating expenses were about \$2K under budget through October.
  - Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$42,348, were \$281,108 through October.

St. Peter's reported net income of \$17,372 through October.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

### Account Balances (as of 10/31/15):

- Checking: \$1,488
- Savings: \$38,998
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$22,052
- Mission: \$9,059
- Building Maintenance: \$15,059
- Concert Series: \$2,881
- Petty Cash: \$200
  - **Total Cash: \$103,000**

**Please carefully consider if your pledges are current and try to meet your total pledge by the end of the year. Your continued support of St. Peter's mission work and operating expenses is greatly appreciated.**

# Worship Service Participants

December – 2015

## Acolytes

- 6 Sydney Alling  
Emma Martz, Sean Magee  
13 James Hammaker  
Phoebe Foerster, Michael Logar  
20 Vernet Spence-Brown  
Katie Parker, Colin Parker  
24 4:30 Brandon Rennie  
Sydney Alling, Sean Magee  
8:30 Vernet Spence-Brown  
27 Vernet Spence-Brown  
Julia Sharpe, Natalia Tackett

## Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 6 Jack Susskind  
13 Lisa Scott  
20 Glenn Murray  
27 Glenn Murray

## Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 6 Mike Logar, Mary Tackett  
13 Pat Howse, Anne Andrews  
20 Judi Hans, Kim Thornton  
24 4:30 Cindy Giancaerino, Marva Young  
8:30 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke  
27 Lady Rennie, Vernet Spence-Brown

## Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 7 Ron Gaugler *lector*  
Lisa Scott *chalicist*  
14 Henry Young *lector*  
21 Ron Gaugler *lector*  
28 Jack Susskind *lector*

## Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 6 David Brennfleck, Leo Guen  
Katie Druckenmiller *intercessor*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*  
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*  
13 Family Service-youth readers TBA  
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*  
20 Trevor Hall, Carol Russell  
Jan Wier *intercessor*  
Joyce Paster *chalicist*  
24 8:30 Beverly Burkhardt  
Curt Quaintance  
Ron Druckenmiller *intercessor*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*  
27 Lessons read by College students [TBA]  
Carol Russell *chalicist*

## Ushers

- 6 Clem Young, Sam Smith  
13 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker  
20 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie  
27 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

