

SAINT PETER'S NET

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

A Word From the Assisting Priest

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

A small, select group established by the Vestry of St. Peter's is beginning to research a vital question; what is the essence, the soul of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and can it be summarized in a few words? In business this is known as "Branding." This need was identified by the vestry at an earlier Vestry Retreat and has been on its agenda since. I believe this study is vital to our understanding of ourselves and what we are about in today's world. It can be noted that the front page of our Sunday Bulletin already carries a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement, carefully fashioned by the Vestry. This raises the question of why is "branding" important to pursue?

Why is this study important? Identity and self-awareness are important for us as individual human beings; it is equally important for churches to probe and convey their uniqueness to themselves and their communities. While it is impossible to be "all things to all people" a particular church congregation will seek to express itself reflecting its history and its sense of mission in the present world. Its reason for being will find expressions that set it apart from others in its quest to follow Jesus and be the Church in a given place and time. It is important that St. Peter's reflect upon its distinctiveness and unique qualities periodically. We believe this exercise in self-reflection is an important aspect of being the Church and following Jesus today.

How are we going to do this? This will be a parish wide effort and beyond. It is our intention to involve every person associated with St. Peter's to join in this reflection of who we are and what we are about. Our parish is wonderfully diverse in its make-up. That diversity is experienced within our church walls every day of the week. Our worship services reflect all ages. We will interview established members and newcomers in the quest to identify the heart and soul of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. What are we trying to do? What are we doing well? Where can we improve? We will also go out into our community and seek to discover how our community sees and experiences our parish. Through all of these conversations and interviews, we will seek to understand more fully what our parish means to our members and those who interact with us from our surrounding communities.

Then we will seek to create a branding statement. It will be used in our literature and on our web site. It will seek to understand and express St. Peter's unique reason for being. You will play a vital part in this exercise by sharing your thoughtful perceptions with us. We believe we have much to share with others within and without. We further believe that there will be many benefits from taking the time and effort to understand ourselves and our community more deeply.

Warm blessings,

David

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*
Rev. Dennis Coleman, *Deacon*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Alex Smith, *Interim Organist*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2016 Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker
Courtenay Williams
2017 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe
2018 Frank Rothenberger
Retta Sparano
Jan Wier

How to contact St. Peter's

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What's Happening At St. Peter's May 2015

p. 1 From the Assisting Priest
p. 2 Deacon's Roundtable
A Word From Deacon II
p. 3 May 3rd Concert; Ascension
Day; Celebrate New Members
Goodly Play/Children's Chapel
p. 4 Mission; Final Concert on 5/31
p. 5 Art Auction Follow-up
May Celebrations; Envelopes??
p. 6 Dollars and Sense
p. 7 Service Participants
p. 8 Parish Calendar

Deacon's Roundtable

Please read Acts 4:23-31.

Imagine that you have just finished the best vacation of your life. You ate really well; you tried a few new activities; you thoroughly enjoyed being with your friends or family. It was perfect in every way. You came back refreshed, peaceful and full of energy—ready to tackle whatever was waiting for you at home or at work. You probably also began thinking and planning another refreshing vacation just like it!

I am suggesting that the men of our parish could experience this same feeling by attending a spiritual retreat weekend at St. Joseph's in the Hills, Malvern on July 24, 25 and 26th. I have been attending retreat weekends at this facility for over 30 years and I have always returned home with my spiritual batteries recharged and ready to tackle another year of challenges.

As soon as one enters the grounds at St. Joseph's in the Hills, one feels the quietness and peace of this Holy Place. You will have your own private room, savor the quietness of the place and meet some wonderful people who have found a new relationship with Jesus Christ. The meals are superb, the meditations are very thought-provoking and you have time for relaxation and refreshment.

Do your family a favor and open your heart to a new and improved relationship with your Lord.

The apostles in the reading had been filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Each of us received the Holy Spirit at Baptism. However, being filled with the Spirit is not the same thing as filling a glass with water. We don't "contain" the Spirit. We cannot control the Spirit or keep the Spirit locked up in our hearts. The Spirit is always flowing, always moving, always pouring out of us. Thus as life handles us challenges we find times when we need our own spiritual "vacation," times when we need to be filled anew.

It's possible to live from strength to strength, but only as we keep asking the Spirit to fill us again and again. The Spirit is our reliable source of strength, love and encouragement. Think about what this means to you and your family. Consider joining me and other men from our area on retreat. I will be happy to talk with any one of our men or young men who would like to know more about this wonderful weekend of Spiritual renewal.

Blessings in Christ's name.

Deacon Joe

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A Word From Deacon JJ

In the very early church, all members were considered ministers. Somehow, we got away from this thinking and by the year 300 or so, we somehow adopted the understanding that just a few were ministers, and the rest of us could show up and be ministered to.

Eucharistic Visitors are a way for the church to reach back to those early traditions. Back then, the Deacon would lead the people back into the world, and all of those who through some calamity were unable to be present to receive the Eucharist would have it brought to them by a Deacon immediately following the gathering.

Today, Deacons take more of a leadership position, lifting up the ministry of all baptized people, and equipping all of those called to become Eucharistic Visitors to properly visit those unable to attend the worship service by sharing prayers, fellowship and communion.

This is not intended to be a way for people to go golfing on Sunday morning, and have communion delivered. It is a sincere effort to see that all members are able to be continually connected to their community of faith, and The Lord's Supper.

A few from St. Peter's are active in this ministry, and some of those in need of these visits are being served.

Deacon Joe and I are reaching out to you to see if we should be expanding this ministry. Do you know someone that is unable to attend, but has a hunger for the Eucharist? Would you like to be trained and supported and become a part of this important work? Contact me by email denniscoleman@gmail.com, by phone [610 999 2926](tel:6109992926) or speak with me at church, to discuss any questions you may have.

Peace at Eastertide!

Deacon Dennis

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Music@St. Peter's Concert



On **Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 pm**, the *Phoenixville Area High School Vocal Ensemble and Women's Choir* will be joining us for an afternoon of beautiful choral music. These ensembles are made up of audition-only choral students of the highest caliber. This ensemble is for students who are highly motivated and self-directed and who wish a musical experience at an intense level.

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Ascension Day – May 14th

40 days after the Festival of Easter the Church celebrates Ascension Day. As Christ ascended into heaven, we are left with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. 10 days following Ascension

Day we celebrate Pentecost, the day the Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ascension Day, much like Ash Wednesday is a feast that falls on a weekday and has lost the importance that it deserves.



The Ascension is an important part in the life and ministry of Jesus, a day that we should celebrate and remember with great joy. On Thursday, May 14th, at 7:30 we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension at St. Peter's. We will include guests and friends in the choir from neighboring parishes to present special music. We hope you will join us for this festive occasion, and to celebrate our great commission.

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Celebrate our New Members



On Sunday, May 17 at the 10:00 service, the New Member/Growth Committee will be hosting a celebration to recognize our newest members. We will have a special coffee hour and our newcomers will receive a blessing. If you have joined Saint Peter's within the past year and would like to be recognized, please contact Judi Hans at 610-327-4653 or JudithHans@comcast.net.

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Godly Play

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Children's Chapel News

Godly Play classes will run through May 31st including Memorial weekend, 5/24, Pentecost.

A new children's summer program will begin when we change to summer schedule. Stay tuned for more details.



Children's Chapel job posting - after several years of service to the Children's Chapel ministry, Danielle Smith is passing the baton of coordinator on to the next leader. This is an important position for St. Peter's family with our wonderful growing group of families with young children. Please contact Jan Wier at 610-935-8996 or janwier@comcast.net to discuss details of this position.

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El Salvador Mission News

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

The El Salvador mission is fast approaching and slated for July 11-18th. There are still several openings to join the mission group on this enriching journey of learning and understanding as the topic of human trafficking and the immigration crisis is explored. Cristosal is doing groundbreaking work in mitigating the crisis surrounding these issues. It is wonderful that St. Peter's is playing a key role in supporting such an organization as Cristosal and having an impact on sustaining their great work. You can learn more about Cristosal by going to www.cristosal.org. If you are interested in participating in this year's mission, please contact Cindy Hammaker asap. It will surely be an unforgettable experience!

The missions committee also wants to extend a big thank you to all who contributed to the dollar a day campaign! The funds collected

were very generous and will contribute nicely to the success of the mission.



Also, the flower sale is back by popular demand. The flowers will be hanging baskets only this year and these are lush, colorful large baskets that are hardy and will last all summer long! The cost is \$25 for a small basket and \$40 for a large basket. Orders are being taken after service or you can contact Julia Sharpe or Cindy Hammaker to place your order. Delivery will be on Sunday, May 17th.

Thank you for your support and I encourage you to consider participating in this year's enriching experience in El Salvador!

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Music at St. Peter's 2014-2015

Season Concert Finale:

Trevor Gordon Hall & Adam Monaco



On **May 31 at 4:00pm**, Music@St. Peter's will conclude the 2014-2015 season with our own Trevor Gordon Hall joining forces with Adam Monaco.

Trevor Gordon Hall sets himself apart by leaving no physical aspect of the guitar untouched and weaving together different textures into grand yet intimate and lyrical compositions. His blend of each sound doesn't overcomplicate but focuses on utilizing the instrument's fullest creative and compositional potential.

Adam Monaco, based out of Philadelphia fuses many different styles and influences to expand

the horizons of traditional singer/songwriter music. His upbeat and lyrical blend of folk rock has engaged audiences regionally and nationally, and has shared the stage with many well-known names throughout the world.

Please come out and join us at 4:00 on May 31st.

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Art Auction Follow-Up



Many thanks to everyone who made our April 18 Art Auction Fundraiser a success! So many people helped in so many ways to have an evening of fun and fellowship while raising money for our operating budget. We are grateful to those who bought tickets, gave donations of food and drink, provided sponsorships and patronages, donated baskets and items for the silent auction and raffle, and the list goes on and on. Under the leadership of Mariel Gniewoz-Weiss, co-chairs for this event included Caitlin Rothenberger, Julia Sharpe, and Judi Hans.

Whenever there is a need, the people of Saint Peter's always step up to the plate. We had a goal of raising \$4,000. We not only met our goal, but we exceeded our goal by \$1400. We are truly a community of caring people who work together to meet any challenge we encounter.

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May Birthdays



- [1] Lenora Thornton, Sean Magee, Clara Boone
- [10] Pat Howse, Carol Russell
- [13] Grace Druckenmiller
- [16] Amy Brodar
- [19] Clem Young, Eric Phillips
- [21] Lisa Schiavone
- [22] Joseph Tosco
- [23] Tara Young
- [24] Jacob Schaefer
- [26] Terri Coleman
- [28] Susan Mathews
- [29] Vernet Spence-Brown
- [30] Thomas Hammaker, Matthew Hope

May Anniversaries



- [7] Henry Young and Andrea Archer
- [13] Michael and Erica Logar
- [14] Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- [22] Bill and Cathy Sullens
- [28] Christopher and Diane Hope
Koshy and Susan Mathews
- [29] Vivek and Minita Hivale

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Envelopes ??



Do YOU have a box of 2015 Giving Envelopes? EVERYONE is encouraged to use giving envelopes. **PLEASE** contact the parish office either by phone or email and a box will be prepared for you.

Dollars and Sense



News from your Accounting Warden
Franklin Rothenberger

1st Quarter 2015 - The financial position of St. Peter's through March, 2015 is outlined below.

Income

- St. Peter's received \$64,272 in pledges and open plate donations which is about \$2,000 above the budget of \$62,490.
- It should be noted that there are \$6,039 in pledged donations currently in arrears for the 1st quarter of 2015. The pledge budget has been met because of pledged donations received in advance.
- Total operating income was \$74,658 which is \$6,893 above the budgeted amount of \$67,765.
- Total income, including pass-thru income, was \$78,166.

Expense

- Total operating expenses were \$68,397 which were covered by operating income with a surplus of \$6,261.
- Operating expenses were about \$4,000 under budget in the first quarter of 2015.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$11,747, were \$80,144 through March, 2015.
- St. Peter's reported a deficit of (\$1,956) through March because of pass-through expenses in excess of pass-through income. The deficit has been improving month over month.
- Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.
- Account Balances (as of 3/31/15):

Checking: \$5,723	Savings: \$38,951	Certificates of Deposit: \$11,550
Youth Group: \$466	Pantry/Outreach: \$17,951	Mission: \$1,131
Concert Series: \$2,363	Building Maintenance: \$12,032	Petty Cash: \$200
Total Cash: \$90,367		

**Your generous support of St. Peter's mission work
and operating expenses is appreciated.**

May Worship Service Participants

Acolytes

- 3 Julia Sharpe
Sean Magee, Megan Magee
10 Thomas Hammaker
James Hammaker, Natalia Tackett
14 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
Thomas Hammaker, James Hammaker
17 Vernet Spence-Brown
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
24 Vernet Spence-Brown
Brandon Rennie, Sean Magee
Phoebe Foerster, Michael Logar
31 Thomas Hammaker
James Hammaker, Sydney Alling

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 3 Lisa Scott
10 Lisa Scott
17 Joan Grunwell
24 Jack Susskind
31 Lisa Scott

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 3 Anne Atlee, Vernet Spence-Brown
10 Cindy Giancaterino, Kim Thornton
14 7:30 Judi Hans
17 Penny McClimmon, Anne Andrews
24 Anne Atlee, Pat Howse
31 Robert and June Blauser

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 3 Lisa Scott
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
10 Henry Young
17 Ron Gaugler
24 Lisa Scott
31 Lisa Scott

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 3 Sarah Ohansian, Brittany Alling
Joanne Arnold *intercessor*
Carol Russell, Joyce Paster *chalicists*
10 Family Service – Lectors TBA
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*

- 14 7:30 Joanne Arnold, Carol Russell
Ron Druckenmiller *intercessor*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
17 Marty Bloem, Joyce Paster
Shelly Brennfleck *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
24 Beverly Burkhardt, Michael Logar
Shelly Brennfleck *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
31 Saarah Ohansian, Phoebe Foerster
Jan Wier *intercessor*
Joanne Arnold *chalicist*

Ushers

- 3 Clem Young, Sam Smith
10 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
17 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
24 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
31 John Andrews, Mark Hammaker