

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,

Yesterday I received on Whatsapp a short message comparing our life to a train journey with its stations, changes of routes and accidents. I found this meaningful as we begin another year. Many passengers we knew as family and friends got off the train and left us this past year, and many new ones got on as fellow passengers on this journey. Many leave a permanent mark or vacuum in our lives, and many when they leave, we hardly notice. This journey is full of joys, sorrows, fantasies, expectations, hellos and goodbyes, and how we treat our fellow passengers and make them comfortable is what is good and remarkable. A mystery on this journey is that we do not know when we ourselves are going to get off, meaning we cannot wait till tomorrow to be good to others. Tomorrows are not guaranteed. Yesterdays are gone. All we have is today, now, the present.

Alfred Nobel, the Swedish chemist and inventor of TNT, read his own obituary in the local newspaper which mistook him for his brother who had died, "Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who died yesterday, devised a way for more people to be killed in a war than ever before. He died a very rich man." It had a profound impact on him, and as he did not want to be known as someone who profited from his invention of efficiently killing more people in war. He gave the profits from his invention to initiate the awarding of prizes to people and organizations for fostering peace in the world. He had a chance to correct himself from the mistakes of his past. As many of us won't get a chance to see our own obituaries in black and white, perhaps we can visualize or fantasize how we would like to be known and remembered. Now is the time to make the necessary changes in the way we live, move and have our beings today.

This January marks the 10th anniversary of our labor together in God's ministry at St. Peter's. It has been a great privilege for me to serve as your rector and co-worker. As I look back over the last years of our ministry, I can say without a doubt that we have been experiencing the presence of Jesus in our walk like the disciples did on their way to Emmaus. In many ways I am an outlier and stranger, yet you took me in as your spiritual leader. Many of you have invited me into your family and confided what is going on in your intimate and spiritual lives, and taken me in as part of your family. I thank God for each one of you and for St. Peter's, the center of our corporate life. I admire your vision for the future, your courage to step out of your comfort zone, and your willingness and faith to go where you would rather not go and do things you would rather not do. As we reflect on and thank God for our past years together, let us think about how as a church we have brought joy, happiness and meaning to both members of our church as well as the people we serve in our community. Let us as a worshipping community continue to be relevant in addressing the peace and justice issues that matter to our larger community and the world.

Continued on next page

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

Office: 610-933-2195
Email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com
Web site: www.saintpeterschurch.net

What's Happening At St. Peter's January 2016

Table of Contents

p. 1 From the Rector
p. 2 Deacon's Roundtable
2015 Annual Reports
p. 3 What is our brand?
January Birthdays
January Lectionary Readings
p. 4 Financial News
p. 5 January Worship Participants

Happy New Year! Pray that in this New Year we find ourselves partnering with God in realizing God's hopes and dreams for each one of us and for our church.

Blessings,

Koshy

§ § § § §

Deacon's Roundtable

The last week of December emphasizes the paradox we face in our Christian lives. The week begins with the always inspiring and uplifting Christmas Eve service to help us celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation—the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. This is a paradox in itself—just think—the Savior of the world, born in a backwater town, to homeless parents, with an ox's feeding trough for His crib. God's Holy Angels pronounce His birth. He is worshipped by the poorest of the poor (the shepherds) and the richest of the rich (the Magi). He is almost immediately made an exile from His own country because of the avarice, greed and fear of one old feeble ruthless puppet king (Herod).

The paradox continues with our liturgical calendar. First we commemorate St. Steven the first deacon and martyr of the new religious sect that was started by the Babe grown to manhood; the person we confess to be the Son of Man and Son of God.

The next day we celebrate the life of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist; the person who was closest to Jesus and took the Blessed Mother as his own. St. John was the only apostle to live through the persecutions of the early church and to die a natural death.

Finally we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents; those boy children of two years and younger who fell to the sword of Herod's henchmen that the Son of God might live to

carry out His Father's mandate to bring all of humankind to Himself.

In his humanness, Jesus lived the paradox—He set the example. He has not asked us to do more (nor could we) than He has done for us.

The saving paradox for us is not only the Babe in the ox trough, but that the Babe grown to manhood (at the expense of others), was hanged on a cross for our sins, and then resurrected to the fullness of life with the Father from whom we are guaranteed the forgiveness of the sins that crucified Him.

Let us take for our own the collect for December 28 (The Fest of the Holy Innocents) that it may help us to reflect on the paradoxes that face us in our daily lives. "We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (BCP p. 238)

Blessings in Christ's name,

Deacon Joe

§ § § § §

Annual Reports for 2015



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 14, 2016 [ONE Service ONLY at 10:00 a.m.] **Deadline for reports to be received in the parish office is January 24th.**

§ § § § §

What is Our Brand? Take the survey!

The Branding Committee of Saint Peter's Church was created in order to understand and publish what may be called the "essence" or "brand/image" of St. Peter's church. To accomplish these goals, we have engaged a professional consultant who has guided us in the creation of a short questionnaire.

This questionnaire was recently distributed electronically and in paper copies. It is our intention that every person who has a relationship with St. Peter's has the opportunity to share his or her experiences by answering this questionnaire.

Please complete one copy of the survey (in either paper or computer form). The questionnaire will take only a few minutes to complete, it has approximately a dozen questions. Your expectations, perceptions and experiences of this unique parish church will be greatly appreciated. All of your responses will be anonymous.

Thank you for helping us to discover our brand.

Iris Blanche, Judi Hans, Kay Hooper, the Reverend David Hyatt, Annette Kiernan, Brian Prato, Caitlin Rothenberger

§ § § § §

January Birthdays



[3] Sue Meadows, Phyllis Byndas
[4] Madeline Tosco, Todd Jackson
[5] William Tackett
[8] Lana Brock, Noah Hatton
[10] Joseph Vargo
[11] D. J. Brock

[16] John Andrews, Edwin Hartman
[17] Finn Murray
[20] Daniel Hammaker, Claire Prato
[22] Michael Mitten
[23] Brandon Rennie
[27] Judi Hans
[28] Courtenay Williams
[29] Kacie Vargo, Stephanie Mitten,
Nick Martin
[31] James Sim

§ § § § §

January Lectionary Readings

January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 84:1-8
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Luke 2:41-52

January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Financial News

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden



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

- **Income**

- Total open plate donations and pledges were \$229,634 which is on pace with the budget of \$229,130.
- Total operating income was \$279,501 which is about \$22K above the budgeted amount of \$257.
- Total income, including pass-thru income of \$50,662, was \$330,160.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$260,968 which were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$18,533.
- Operating expenses were about \$3K over budget through November.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$55,386, were \$316,354 through November.
-

- St. Peter's reported net income of \$14,526 through November.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 11/30/15):

- Checking: \$7,744
- Savings: \$39,008
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$19,600
- Mission: \$3,069
- Building Maintenance: \$16,068
- Concert Series: \$2,754
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$101,706**

Please carefully consider if your pledges are current and try to meet your total pledge by the end of the year. If you have not yet provided your pledge card for 2016 please return to the church office or place in the Sunday offering. Your continued support of St. Peter's mission work and operating expenses is greatly appreciated.

January Worship Service Participants

Acolytes

- 3** Vernet Spence-Brown
Emma Martz, Phoebe Foerster
10 James Hammaker
Michael Logar, Sydney Alling
17 Ryan Sutter
Libby Andrews, Julia Sharpe
24 Brandon Rennie
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
31 Vernet Spence-Brown
Sydney Alling, James Hammaker

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

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

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 3** Anne Andrews, Mary Tackett
10 Lady Rennie, Mike Logar
17 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
24 Anne Atlee, Vernet Spence-Brown
31 Cindy Giancaterino, Kim Thornton

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 4** Henry Young
Ron Gaugler *chalice*
11 Lisa Scott
18 Ron Gaugler
25 Jack Susskind
31 Lisa Scott

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 3** Shelly Brennfleck, Vernet Spence-Brown
Trevor Hall *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller, Carol Russell *chalice*
10 Family Service Lector's To Be Determined
Beverly Burkhardt *chalice*
17 Leo Guen, Phoebe Foerster
Marty Bloem *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalice*
24 Curt Quaintance, Carol Russell
Susan Mathews *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalice*
31 Sarah Ohanesian, David Brennfleck
Joyce Paster *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalice*

Ushers

- 4** Clem Young, Sam Smith
11 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
18 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
25 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
31 John Andrews, Mark Hammaker