

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,

A verse from Psalm 108 reads, "My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and make melody. Wake up my spirit; awake lute and harp; I myself will waken the dawn." This verse, part of a Morning Prayer I use, made me think about spiritual literacy. What is spiritual literacy? It is the ability to make meaning of the signs and happenings written in the texts of our lives and experiences. Just as language literacy enables us to read and make sense of printed texts, spiritual literacy enables us to discern and decipher the other ways through which the mysterious one speaks to us. Development of written and spoken languages moved us away from the more primeval forms of language the Spirit used to communicate with our ancestors. Just as the Spirit spoke to our ancestors in signs and nature, the Spirit still speaks to us. However, we do not often receive these messages due to lack of our spiritual literacy. Like the psalmist rousing his spirit from its stupor, we also need to be spiritually awakened and tuned in to receive and experience the message and presence of God in our daily encountering of living in the crucible of life. This would make our life a sacred adventure.

As I look back and reflect on my coming to St. Peter's ten years ago this month, I see that it was a heart decision, not a head one. By that I mean that it was not a calculated head move, rather it was spirit-led. Throughout the calling process I experienced the leading of the Spirit even when I tried to tune it out. As I was entertaining my next call while serving the church in Walpole, Massachusetts, I often preached challenging people and myself to step out of our comfort zones, I prayed to God to give me the courage to go places where I would rather not go, and to do things what I rather not do. I meditated walking in the sprawling Borderland State Park next to where we lived and asked God to give me the signs to help me make the right decision. Should I leave the comfort of the familiar and financially more secure status quo or embrace the unknown community of St. Peter's in Phoenixville to which I was being pulled by an awakened spirit? I am happy to say that the Spirit won the tug of war.

Today, I thank God for the sacred adventure Susan and I have had so far in this beloved community of St. Peter's. Together we have accomplished some great things: successful capital campaign, celebration of our 175th anniversary, proliferation of our pantry and outreach ministry, a thriving global mission, exciting children's ministries, and a steadily expanding footprint in the community around us. Our church is growing and we are known in the community as a neighborhood church that welcomes all people regardless of race, color, class, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. We are a people of Jesus Movement. God is still leading us forward. God keeps pushing the envelope and expanding the horizon of our involvement in God's ministry.

In another few days, as we will be holding our annual meeting, let us be

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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

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 February 2016

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spiritually more awakened to see and sense the signs of the movement of the Holy Spirit as to the new things God is about to do in God's ministry at St. Peter's, in Phoenixville, and in the world, and how God is calling us to be partners with God in this sacred adventure.

Blessings, *Koshy*

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Deacon's Roundtable

As we approach Lent, let us reflect briefly on the scripture from the Hebrew scripture Numbers 21:4-9.

As you may recall, the book of Numbers recounts many episodes from the wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness after their flight from Egypt. Moses had been entrusted with the task of shepherding this unmanageable people through the desert to the promised land. Because of their frequent rebellions against God's directions, the journey was long and exhausting. The Israelites found much to complain about, especially the fact that they had no food or water. God disciplined them for their ingratitude by having poisonous snakes invade the grumbling crowd. Many died before the people acknowledged their sin and begged Moses to intercede before God on their behalf. God commanded Moses to set up a bronze snake on a pole so that everyone who had been bitten could look at this image and be restored to health. Jesus himself gave us the key to understanding the meaning of this unusual sign when he explained his own redemptive role: *"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert. So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life"* (John 3:14-15).

As we approach the Season of Lent, we are reminded that it is our faith, which looks steadily at Jesus lifted up on the cross for our

sake, that saves us from the venom of our sins, which would otherwise lead to death just as surely as the poisonous bites of the fiery snakes. We give thanks that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and for providing us with the promise that whoever believes on him will not perish but have eternal life. We also give thanks for Jesus glorious resurrection and ask that he would help us to keep our eyes on him.

I pray Christ will give you a Blessed Lent.

Deacon Joe

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A Word From Deacon II

The long needed ministry to those that need a warm spot on a cold night is finally taking shape. Ann's Heart, a ministry of St. Ann's and Sacred Heart church is providing the space. The Ann's Heart board has assembled a sub-committee just for Code Blue, which is chaired by Nate Hoffer of Good Sam Shelter. Please read his appeal below. Deacon Dennis

Dear friends of the Phoenixville community,

You may be aware that in the cold winter months some members of our community are without a safe and warm place to sleep at night. It is our desire that all members of our community are given access to a warm shelter where they can rest and be treated with dignity.

There has been a tremendous amount of work and effort to get the Code Blue Ministry of Phoenixville started. Many leaders in the community have come together and worked hard to put together a program that can provide for the most basic needs of our neighbors.

We have located the facility, we have policies and volunteers ready to get started.

But we need more help.

We are asking for your assistance to get the word out to your church body and circle of influence. The Code Blue Ministry of

Phoenixville will need a lot of volunteer support in order to run an effective program and provide proper care to the clients. Specifically, we are looking for people who can volunteer to be at the shelter overnight and to provide supplies and food to the residents. A few churches are discussing signing up for a week and developing their own schedule. We will have a trainer onsite.

We are also in great need of financial support to fund for critical part time staff positions and supplies. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to St. Ann's Rectory, 502 S. Main St, Phoenixville, Pa. 19460. Checks should be payable to Ann's Heart.

If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve please contact Kris Keller of Orion at [610-415-1140](tel:610-415-1140) or kkeller@orioncommunities.org

Nate Hoffer, Executive Director Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc.

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February 14 One Service Only



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please plan to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 14. There will be one service that day at 10:00 AM. Fr. Koshy will deliver his Rector's report from the pulpit and other significant reports will be given verbally during the service. The vestry will be available for questions during coffee hour which follows the meeting.

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 faced 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

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Lenten Ecumenical Services
Wednesday Evenings

7:30 p.m.



February 17: First Presbyterian Church
February 24: First Methodist Church
March 2: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
March 9: Grimes A.M.E. Church
March 16: Centennial Lutheran Church

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DAY by DAY

The February/March/April issue of DAY by DAY [Forward] may be found in the Narthex Tract Rack.

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February 21, 2016 4:00 pm

St. Peter's Concert Series: Jazz & Joe
Alan Segal Quartet

The Alan Segal Quartet plays the music we all love, quintessential jazz, in a manner that entices the audience to stop what they're doing, turn and listen. Leaving the venue while this group performs is simply not an option. Who of us could ignore the strength and vibrancy, of Eddie Etkins on saxophone, the rhythms of Leon Jordan, the fills and styling of George Sinkler on piano and the tempos of bassist Alan Segal.

St. Peter's Food Pantry



We want to thank each and every one who helped us to provide a wonderful Christmas Pantry for our clients. Because of such success, we find we now have more bare spots and donations of **Pasta Sauce [in plastic jars, please], canned tomatoes, Rice, instant potatoes, cereal, canned pastas and baking goods** would be greatly appreciated. Please keep your donations of re-useable grocery bags coming too! Thank you all for your generous support of St. Peter's Food Pantry!

Saint Peter's Food Pantry has it's own Face Book page! Like us on Facebook and stay up to date on happenings at the pantry. <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterspantry/?fref=ts>

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COME....



My friend, you'll find a welcome here.

So pause a while to meditate.

Here bring the burdens of your mind, with
all the pains of your heart you bear.

**Just bring them here, and
take instead the Way of Christ:
the peace it brings,
the love it shares,
the service it inspires;
will be to you the Way, the Truth, and the
Abundant Life.**

A quote from the First Christian Church of Sebring, Florida

2015 Financial Standing and 2016 Budget

from Frank Rothenberger, Treasurer



2015 Budget 2015 Actual 2016 Budget

INCOME

Open Plate	\$18,000	\$19,834	\$19,000
Pledge	\$231,326	\$232,666	\$240,424
Easter & Christmas	\$6,400	\$4,275	\$5,000
Clinic Rent	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Pantry/Outreach Overhead	\$2,400	\$2,000	\$2,400
Use of Building	\$1,500	\$2,151	\$1,750
Fundraising	\$4,000	\$6,036	\$1,000
Flowers/Candles	\$800	\$807	\$750
Youth Group		\$2,505	
Special Donations		\$4,777	
Miscellaneous	\$1,500	\$2,504	\$500
Subtotal (Operating Income)	\$283,926	\$295,555	\$288,824
Pass-Through Income		\$56,508	
Capital Campaign Contributions		\$33,000	
TOTAL INCOME	\$283,926	\$385,063	\$288,824

EXPENSE

Payroll & Benefits	\$178,161	\$175,638	\$181,045
Administration	\$18,550	\$29,866	\$19,240
Worship	\$3,750	\$5,138	\$3,750
Mission & Diocesan Giving	\$21,375	\$19,141	\$21,926
Ministries	\$5,150	\$4,254	\$4,850
Property	\$52,628	\$38,952	\$57,200
Subtotal (Operating Expenses)	\$279,614	\$272,989	\$288,011
Net Operating Income	\$4,312	\$22,566	\$813

Pass-Through Expense		\$64,299	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$279,614	\$337,288	\$288,011

NET INCOME	\$4,312	\$47,775	\$813
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ACCOUNT BALANCES (as of 12/31/15)

Checking	\$11,070	Checking - Pantry	\$17,224
Capital Campaign (New)	\$30,009	Checking - Mission	\$3,319
Savings	\$39,013	Savings - Building Maintenance	\$16,068
Certificates of Deposit	\$12,126	Concert Series	\$2,959
St. Peter's Youth Group	\$1,136	Petty Cash	\$200

TOTAL BALANCES	\$133,126		
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El Salvador Mission

Cindy Hamaker



The missions committee continues to meet monthly and strives to maintain focus and attention to those suffering and in need within and beyond our borders. Our relationship with Cristosal remains strong and Cristosal's School of Global Engagement has served as a connection to learning and understanding of how to be more present and caring to those in need.

There will be another such enriching learning opportunity this July with several more openings for participants. If interested in learning more and/or contributing to the mission in El Salvador, please feel free to attend the monthly missions meetings or contact Gary Russell or Cindy Hamaker. The next missions meeting will be February 3rd at 8:30AM at the church.

Also, the mission committee will be hosting a "thank you" luncheon on February 7th after 10AM service. This will be a nice opportunity for the committee to show their thanks for all of your support in the past year and as we look forward to 2016! This should be a very enjoyable event and we're hoping for a good turnout since there will be much great food and fellowship to share too!

Thank you, and looking forward to another prosperous year of serving and being ever present and aware of the struggles and needs of others!

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Report from the Stewardship Committee

Your Stewardship Committee graciously offers gratitude to the generosity of the Parish in

achieving a very successful 2016 in-gathering campaign.

Pledge income increased to \$240K for 2016 thanks to a successful Stewardship Campaign reaching 99% of the original aggressive goal of \$244K. This is an increase of \$12,000 or 5% above our 2015 results. We sincerely Thank each and every Pledging family or individual for your contribution to the continued faith in St. Peter's and our many missions.



An area of concern with the pledging is that 40%, or \$96K, of all pledges come from top 3 pledging units and 51%, or \$122K, come from the top 7 pledging units. It's obvious that the church heavily relies upon the generosity of just a few individuals, which could have a substantial impact on church operations should their giving habits change. Also, there are only 68 pledging units so participation could and should be higher. Wider pledging participation would greatly assist the Vestry in planning for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

*Diane Hope, Eric Sharpe,
Dave Brennfleck, and Don Hans*

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2016 Vestry Candidates

Karen Martz

My name is Karen Martz and I have had an active affiliation with the Episcopal Church since birth. I attended Church of the Mediator in Allentown, PA throughout my childhood where I served as an acolyte and crucifer. I sang in the Junior Choir all through school. I graduated from Susquehanna University with a degree in Music Education and moved to BelAir, MD to teach where I attended St. Mary's Episcopal Church. When I relocated to Phoenixville with my husband Brian we searched for a church and came across St.

Peter's. This has been our church home since 2002. Both of our children were baptized here. The three girls in our family all sing in the choir. I am a member of the Music Committee where I helped to start the Concert Series and served on the search committee to find Karen Greene after Nick Lodico resigned. I am a firm believer that it takes a village to raise a child and I am thrilled that St. Peter's church family is providing that village for our children. I have been asked numerous times to serve on the vestry and because our children were so young, I always declined. Now that they are getting older, I feel it is time to give a little more back to the community of St. Peter's.

Brian Prato

My name is Brian Prato and I'm hoping for your support in joining the Vestry here at St. Peter's. Since moving to Phoenixville in August of 2014, my wife Meghan and I have found our spiritual home here at this church and along with our two girls Claire and Brynna are looking forward to watching the community at St. Peter's prosper.

I am currently a member of the Men's Buildings and Grounds Group and the Branding Committee. In my professional life, I manage events for the Jersey Surf World Class Drum Corps and the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. I also own an internet business that allows school band programs to sell their used color guard uniforms and equipment on consignment. In the fall, I help teach the Phoenixville High School Marching Band in addition to designing shows for bands across the country and judging local marching band competitions.

I would like to serve on the Vestry to help us fulfill our mission of service to others and to help us grow our community by welcoming new families to St. Peter's.

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February Celebrations

Birthdays



- [2] Ron Druckenmiller
- [3] Jake Vargo
- [4] Brittany Rennie
- [5] Owen Szerenyi
- [6] Trey Warkala
- [7] Naomi Grunwell, Jonie Coleman
- [8] Lynn Fraker
- [9] Lisa Brock
- [10] Zack Martin
- [12] Mariel Weiss
- [14] Caitlin Rothenerger
- [15] Robert Birkbeck
- [16] David Hyatt
- [17] Bill Sullens
- [18] Jan Wier, Kim Thornton
- [19] Ryan Wier, Michael Paster
- [20] Mike Logar
- [21] Susan Krzemienski
- [22] Eric Quaintance, George Barker
- [27] Gabriel Kostelny

Anniversary



- [14] James and Penny McClimon

Worship Service Participants

February ~ 2016

Acolytes

- 7 Vernet Spence-Brown
Sean Magee, Phoebe Foerster
- 10 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
James Hammaker, Julia Sharpe
- 14 Brandon Rennie
Michael Logar, Libby Andrews
- 21 Vernet Spence-Brown
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 28 Ryan Sutter
Sydney Alling, James Hammaker

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 7 Joan Grunwell
- 14 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 21 Lisa Scott
- 28 Glenn Murray

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 7 Marva Young, Anne Andrews
- 10 7:30 Judi Hans
- 14 Judi Hans, Pat Howse
- 21 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke
- 28 Lady Rennie, Anne Atlee

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 7 Ron Gaugler
Lisa Scott *chalicist*
- 14 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 21 Jack Susskind
- 28 Henry Young

Ushers

- 7 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 14 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 21 Curt, Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 28 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 7 Mali Warren, Retta Sparano
Jan Wier *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 10 7:30 Curt Quaintance, Susan Mathews
Carol Russell *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
- 14 Michael Logar, Phoebe Foerster
Vernet Spence-Brown *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 21 Katie Druckenmiller, Beverly Burkhardt
Leo Guen *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 28 Mali Warren, Jan Wier
Sarah Ohanesian *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*

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TAKE TIME TO....

to **Think**: it is the source of power

to **Play**: it is the secret of perpetual youth

to **Read**: it is the fountain of wisdom

to **Pray**: it is the greatest power on earth

to **Love and Be Loved**: it is a God-given privilege

to be **Friendly**: it is the road to happiness

Author Unknown

