

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,

Lent reflects Jesus' final journey towards Jerusalem, and is a time for us to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter, when the saving work of God takes place in the death and resurrection of our Lord. For some, Lent may be a time of giving up or letting go of things or habits, while for others it may be the beginning of a new discipline or habit or a new way looking at things. Whatever may be the case with us, we are called to mindfully and intentionally do something that makes us vulnerable and focus on things that are really important to us. I trust the intentionality you apply in living this Lent is a rewarding experience for you.

We live in a society that defines the pursuit of happiness as a fundamental right of every human being; a right we value and pursue. However, what is happiness? It depends on what one values. In an acquisitive, competitive, and achievement oriented society, where everyone is on a rat race in amassing wealth or gaining fame and success, happiness is defined as 'he who dies with most toys wins'. In such a society, the prosperity theology, which believes that God grants health and wealth to those with the right kind of faith, is tantalizingly appealing. In other words, your good fortune is considered as a reward for your hard work or having the right faith rather than as a gift from God. This kind of theology is counter to the theology of vulnerability or self-emptying, which is what Lent is about. What if we make a paradigm shift and step out of the proverbial rat race and begin to reorient our relationship to wealth and stuff. Then we will have time to stop and smell the roses and enjoy the beauty of the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.

Living meaningfully in relationship with our creator God and with God's creation as part of it, and not apart from it, requires a higher level of consciousness. In such a way of living we see God as unconditionally loving us, and we see creation as fellow subjects and not as objects we can exploit to our benefit. We do not see ourselves as superior to the rest of the creation or as self-appointed persons to subdue it, but rather in mutuality, reverence and respect of each other. It is hard to live in this mystical consciousness level especially when the rest of the society operates as if we were living in a doggy dog world. The Lenten book study *Embracing An Alternate Orthodoxy* that some of us are doing this Lent has really shed light on how far we have moved off course from the path of Jesus.

Lent calls us to repent. Metanoia, the word in Greek for repent means turn around. Perhaps we can all seriously consider taking a look at how far we have moved off course and turn around adopting a simpler life style that will be sustainable. At the least, I hope this Lent would arouse us to engage in an honest conversation on sustainability and sustainable lifestyle. Pray that we may continue to experience the blessings of 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

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

2016 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe
2017 Frank Rothenberger
Retta Sparano
Jan Wier
2018 Raymond Forester
Karen Martz
Brian Prato

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What's Happening At St. Peter's

March 2016

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Deacon's Roundtable

Inspired by the work of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, a young woman once asked Blessed Mother Teresa if she could join the order. "Stay where you are," she replied. "Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, and the lonely, right there where you are—in your home and in your family, in your workplace and in your school. Everywhere, wherever you go, you find people who are unwanted, unloved."

The Missionaries of Charity, as their name implies, have made it their mission to love those who are unloved. In a similar vein, Jesus tells us (as related in Matthew 25:31-46) that if we care for the "least" among us, we will be "blessed" by God.

To do this ministry one must know the people they are ministering to. One cannot bring the Good News to people, or really any news at all, unless you know them, but to know human beings to the core you must love what is loveable in them, honor what is honorable, and forgive what is foolish or wicked.

Jesus is asking us literally to tend the sick, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and visit those in prison. These are the "least" of his brothers and sisters. They are especially close to his heart, and he will hold us accountable for how we treat them.

As Mother Teresa says, "Calcutta is everywhere." Think of those in spiritual prisons; so many people may seem fine on the outside, but they feel trapped inside. How about the elderly neighbor who lives by herself? She isn't exactly a prisoner, but she clearly has some limitations and would appreciate visitors. Or what about spiritual hunger? All around us, there are people who need to hear about Jesus, maybe even in our own homes. They are hungry for the good news of God's love and mercy.

A person of God meets a person who longs for God. Is that not the profoundest thing we can say about our fellow human beings, in whatever

culture we may find them—that in the recesses of their hearts they long for God? If so, then only someone whose heart and mind are turned to God can ever really understand the hearts and minds of others.

Throughout her ministry, Mother Teresa lived out both approaches. In a heroic way, she took care of the sick, fed the hungry, and clothed the naked. But she also knew that each person needs to be loved and treated with dignity and honor—and she did just that for everyone she met, kings and peasants alike. Like her, let us be ready to embrace every opportunity to feed the people around us, both physically and spiritually.

Blessing to all as we continue our fast through Lent and prepare for the great Feast of Easter.

Deacon Joe

A Word From Deacon JJ

The Code Blue Ministry is off and running. It has been a bit like building an airplane while flying it, but at least we are up in the air.

On Valentine's weekend, one of the coldest this winter, we had 10+ guests. Praise God that the community has come together so that no one in Phoenixville needs to sleep in the cold.

St. Peter's has been commendable in its support: Gary Russell has seen that there is food available and some of you have volunteered to come alongside our one paid worker.

We continue to need support, and I hope that you will consider helping in some way and by spreading the news. Our plan is to stay open until April 1, and then assess the need to stay open longer. We need: ● Volunteers to come in just to add support overnight. The shifts are from 8 PM to 8 AM, or you could do a four hour shift beginning at 8 PM, midnight, or 4 AM. If you need a nap, that's fine, we have a spot for that. See me or email me

[dennisecoleman@gmail.com] and I will help you sign up, or answer any questions.

•And of course, we need money. We are paying a fair wage for one person to stay-up all night, as well as paying an organizer. You might consider supporting us by sending a check made out to Ann's Heart, c/o St. Ann's Church, 502 Main St, Phoenixville, PA 19460. Ann's Heart is the name of the board that governs this ministry, of which I am a member of the board.

Deacon Dennis

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Community Lenten Worship
Wednesday's - 7:30 pm



March 2: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
March 9: Grimes A.M.E. Church
March 16: Centennial Lutheran Church

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Exceptional Lenten Opportunity



The Choir needs to fill the choir stalls for Easter. Come join us for the month of March. Instead of giving something up, try adding the discipline of singing in the choir.

We practice Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. Give us a try for just 1 month. We need additional singers.

See you Sunday at practice.

Tunefully, *Karen Greene*

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Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday + March 24

7:30 p.m. Eucharist; Foot Washing
9:00 p.m. Vigil until 1:30 p.m. Friday

Good Friday + March 25

1:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
2:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday + March 26

7:30 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day + March 27

8:00 a.m. Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

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Altar Flowers For Easter



You are invited to share in the joy of beautifying our church for the Easter Season. There is **NO** suggested contribution. Please, return this form to the parish office, or place it in the weekly offering plate in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" **by Sunday, March 20**. Please make checks payable to St. Peter's Church. All names will be printed in the Easter bulletins.

Please PRINT clearly all names.

In memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Envelope Number: _____

Financial Update January 2016

from Frank Rothenberger, Treasurer



The financial position of St. Peter's through January, 2016 is outlined below.

- **Income**

- Total open plate donations and pledges were \$21,273 which is close to the budget of \$21,619. January did have a cancelled Sunday service because of inclement weather.
- Total operating income was \$26,248 which included a \$3,000 matching grant from the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation which has been deposited in the 2016 Capital Campaign account.
- Total income, including pass-thru income of \$7,899, was \$34,169.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$22,043 which were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$4,205.
- Operating expenses were about \$4K under budget through January.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$1,147, were \$23,190 through January.

- St. Peter's reported net income of \$10,979 through January.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 1/31/16):

- Checking: \$11,082
- Savings: \$39,018
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$22,222
- Mission: \$3,419
- Building Maintenance: \$18,623
- Concert Series: \$3,272
- NEW Capital Campaign: \$33,029
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$144,127**

Thank you all for your continued support of St. Peter's. Let us build on the momentum from the strong end to 2015 and start to 2016.

Mission Outreach

Cindy Hammaker chammaker1@gmail.com



St. Peter's is doing great work in reaching out to our brothers and sisters not only in our local community but beyond our borders in El Salvador. Our strong and committed connection with Foundation Cristosal has provided a bridge for us to gain awareness of the needs of those struggling and to understand how best to serve those needs.

There is another exciting learning opportunity this summer with Cristosal's School of Global Engagement in El Salvador. This summer's mission group is in the process of forming, so interested participants are encouraged to step forward ASAP. The topic this summer will probably be rights-based community development, the date is to be determined, but will most likely be in mid-July. If interested in participating in this experience or have any questions, please contact Cindy Hammaker or Gary Russell.

The mission committee will meet on Thursday, March 3rd at 7PM and anyone interested is encouraged to attend!

The Dollar a Day campaign is going on through March/Lenten season. During this time of more focused spiritual reflection, you are encouraged to reflect on how many in El Salvador try to live on less than \$2 a day and consider donating \$1 per day during the 50 days from the 1st Sunday in Lent to the 1st Sunday after Easter. You can then put your accumulated donation in an envelope and place in the collection plate during the April 3rd Sunday services. Your contribution will help to defray the travel costs to the missionaries and will have a great impact on making the trip successful. Thank you for your participation in this meaningful Lenten devotion and showing your support for this great mission of St. Peter's!

March Celebrations

Birthdays



- [2] Dave Meadows
- [3] Nancy Giampietro
- [11] Seamus Sutter
- [15] Carrie Wanish
- [16] Sydney Alling
- [17] Rachel Schaefer, Malina Weiss
- [20] Frank Rothenberger
- [23] Lauren Nagy
- [28] Anne Andrews
- [29] Jack Andrews, Keegan Dorais
- [30] Wendy Vargo, Stephanie Sutter
- [31] Rosemarie O'Rourke

Anniversaries



- [5] Sonia Rivera and Leonel Parada-Perdomo
- [17] Phil and Pat Howse

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Welcome to St. Peter's

We have received a Letter of Transfer of Membership from Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler for Ernest [Steve] and Jan Eddowes.

Welcome Steve and Jan!



Worship Service Participants

March ~ 2016

Acolytes

- 6 Vernet Spence-Brown
Sean Magee, Emma Martz
- 13 Brandon Rennie
Sydney Alling, Michael Logar
- 20 Libby Andrews
Phoebe Foerster, Michael Logar
- 24 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
Emma Martz, Sean Magee
- 25 2:00 Vernet Spence-Brown
- 26 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown, Julia Sharpe
- 27 Vernet Spence-Brown
Emma Martz, Phoebe Foerster
Brandon Rennie, Sean Magee

Greeters - 8:00 am

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

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 6 Mike Logar, Anne Andrews
- 13 Kim Thornton
- 20 Pat Howse, Judi Hans
- 24 7:30 Judi Hans
- 25 2:00 Judi Hans
- 26 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown, Lady Rennie
- 27 Cindy Giancaterino, Marva Young

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 6 Lisa Scott
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 13 Henry Young
- 20 Ron Gaugler
- 27 Jack Susskind

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 6 Vernet Spence-Brown
David Brennfleck
Trevor Hall *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
- 13 Michael Logar, Beverly Burkhardt
Shelly Brennfleck *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
- 20 Retta Sparano, Susan Mathews
Marty Bloem *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 24 7:30 Ron and Georgette Druckenmiller
Curt Quaintance *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 25 2:00 Joyce Paster, Retta Sparano
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 26 7:30 Beverly Burkhardt, Marty Bloem
Georgette Druckenmiller *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 27 Sarah Ohanesian, Trevor Hall
Katie Druckenmiller *intercessor*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*

Ushers

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