

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,

I can't believe how fast this summer has gone by. Over the past two months, we were busy with Peace Vigil, Bishop's consecration and pilgrimages, organizing for first-ever school lunch initiative, diversity in action mentoring, at-risk-girls concerns, in addition to all our regular feeding and pantry outreach programs. The Sunday morning classes for children on Getting to know our Neighbors brought between 8 to 18 children every Sunday. Our summer Sunday attendance has been substantially higher than that of previous years.

As in previous nine years, a group from St. Peter's went to El Salvador for a week. This year we attended a week-long seminar called, "Liberation Theology, Liberation Science – An Innovative Approach to Climate Change Education." For all of us it was an eye opening experience. If the name of the course appears to presume that somehow the field of Climate Science is in a restraint from which it needs to be liberated, it is so. Climate Science offers us so much information about the world we live in, the way it is without any bias. When the findings of science are sidelined or silenced because they are inconvenient to advance the cause of ideological views of the dominant group, then it is restrained and in need of liberation for the benefit of the whole. According to a majority of scientists in the world today, climate change and global warming are intensely becoming an existential threat to our globe and our species. They call for a drastic reduction in our use of fossil fuels for the production of energy. Today, the impact of climate change and global warming are disproportionately affecting poorer communities in the world. People living in a richer nation like ours need to adopt a simpler life style with less carbon footprint so that people in poorer nations can simply live today. Our intemperate life style will also cost our children and grandchildren a future. In the coming weeks at St. Peter's, we will form a committee to help us fashion a life style that will be more gentle on our environment.

We will celebrate our first Sunday back after summer vacation on Sunday, September 11. On this Rally Sunday, parents register their children for Godly Play classes and Youth Group activities. We encourage children to bring their backpacks on this Sunday for a special prayer blessing. Dr. Alan Fegely, the Superintendent of Phoenixville Area School District, is expected to attend this service and speak to us. Children's Chapel, Godly Play classes and youth group meetings are once again in gear provided that we have the full complement of teachers and helpers. We will begin a new class preparing youth to be confirmed in the fall of 2017. A similar program will be offered for older adults also. We will once again meet weekly on Tuesdays for mid-week Eucharist and Bible Study. Sunday morning sessions for adult formation and meditation will start as of first Sunday of October.

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

February 2017	Judi Hans Vincent Giancaterino Julia Sharpe
February 2018	Frank Rothenberger Retta Sparano Jan Wier
February 2019	Raymond Forester Karen Martz Brian Prato

How to contact St. Peter's

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

Table of Contents

p. 1	From the Rector
p. 2	Deacon's Roundtable
p. 3	Service Times; Parish Picnic; Worship; Choirs
p. 4	Block Party; Stewardship Mission News
p. 5	Without Differences
p. 6	Welcome
p. 7	Financial Update
p. 8	Worship Participants September Celebrations

We thank Don Hans, as he retires, for his last five years of service in the stewardship committee. Over the summer, stewardship committee met with new leadership, and in the coming weeks they will approach you for your pledge of support for the ministries and mission of our church.

I look forward to seeing you all back in church soon.

Blessings, *Fr. Koshy*

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Deacon's Roundtable

We as Episcopalians celebrate sacraments every week in our worship service; in particular the Holy Communion or Eucharist. We also use sacramentals on a regular basis as a means of receiving the fruits of the sacraments. Sacramentals include both praise of God for His works and gifts, and the church's intercession for people that may be able to use God's gifts according to the spirit of the Gospel.

Two sacramentals that are used every week at St. Peter's are the Holy Water stoups found at the main entrances to the church and the votive candle stand in the Lady Chapel.

Many of us, when we enter the church or our pew bless ourselves by genuflecting and making the sign of the cross. (These too are sacramentals.) The making of the sign of the cross expresses our belief in the mystery of our redemption. By adding Holy Water from the stoup to this action each time we bless ourselves upon entering the church, we renew our Baptismal vows.

Water is a sign of cleansing. God himself prescribed its use for his people as a rite of purification (Numbers 19). The Jews purified themselves with water before entering the Temple. The Church initiated this ceremony by placing water at the church doors so that the

faithful could wash their hands and faces before Mass. As early as the fourth century, this water was blessed. Therefore, each time we utilize this sacramental it reminds us of our purification from sin through baptism.

Candles or lamps have been a symbol of the Light of Christ since the first century. Jesus himself reminded us that light should not be hid under a bushel but placed on a lamp stand where it will give light to the whole room. The Paschal Candle burns from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost and at every Baptism and Funeral to remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. Our sanctuary lamp burns to indicate that Christ is present in the reserved sacrament at the High Altar. Votive candles give light to the world as we pray for the needs of others or in thanksgiving for answered prayer. The lighted votive candle symbolizes for us the Light of Christ illuminating our concerns for the needs and hurts of those we love.

There are two other sacramentals that are used periodically throughout the church year. One is used during our Lenten Vigil. The Stations of the Cross, prominently displayed on the wall of our sanctuary, help us to participate in the last hours of Our Blessed Lord's human life. This sacramental traces its history back to the fourth century when St. Helena went to the Holy Land to seek out the places where Jesus was born, lived and died. Soon after, devout people would make pilgrimage to Jerusalem to walk the streets where Jesus walked as he was led to Golgotha and the Cross. They would stop at the traditional places where Jesus experienced a particular event and meditate on that event. Soon artisans began to depict these events in painting, reliefs, and sculptures and place them in the churches of Christendom to help devout people, who could not afford to go on pilgrimage, meditate on the last hours of Christ's life. The Stations of the Cross are a devotional that we can use at any time, not just during lent, to help us better realize and feel the agony that Christ went through to bring us redemption. *(To be continued next month)*

Deacon Joe

A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Members of St. Peter's,

There are no words to express my gratitude for all your prayers and kindnesses these past few weeks. It has been a trying time for my family. What would I do without your support? Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Lenora Thornton

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Sunday, September 11

Return to Worship times of
8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

AND

Blessing of School Back Packs



A special prayer and blessing will be offered for the new school year as our children start back to school. Children are encouraged to bring their back packs to Church on the 11th and come forward to the altar for prayer and blessing.

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Annual Parish Picnic



Sunday, September 18th

Rain or Shine

2 to 6 p.m.

Copperfield Inn at Lakeside
Limerick, PA

News from the Worship Committee



We return to the schedule of 8 AM and 10 AM service times, beginning on September 11th.

Looking ahead:

- 9/11 - Youth education registration and blessing of school backpacks.
- 9/11 – 4 PM Evensong at Washington Memorial Chapel in remembrance of the 15th anniversary of 9/11/01.
- 9/25 – Stewardship Campaign kick-off
- 10/2 – Blessing of the animals at 3 PM outside Lady Chapel, weather permitting
- 11/6 – All Saints' Sunday – lighting of candles in memoriam
- 11/13 – In-gathering Sunday
- 12/4 – 4PM Advent Lessons and Carols
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve (Saturday) Pageant at 3 PM, Evening service at 8:30 PM, with carols at 8:15 PM.
- 12/25 – Christmas Day (Sunday) Service at 9 AM (without music)

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Music News: Choirs



Let's all sing in choir this year!

All the children from 1st grade and up are welcome to come sing in the Treble Choir. We rehearse on Sunday mornings for a half hour beginning at noon. Our first rehearsal will be on September 11th. Please come try us out!

Adults will begin Sunday morning 8:30 a.m. rehearsals on September 11th. There are still seats available in the choir stalls. Please join us! We'll be having a wine and cheese get together on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 pm to preview upcoming music and to share our summer adventures. Come and see what you're

missing by not singing in the choir! We will be singing Advent Lessons and Carols on December 4th at 4 pm. Plan to join us as a participant (singer or listener!).

Concert Series to begin October 23

Our first concert this year will feature Claude Bourbon on Sunday October 23rd at 4 pm. Mr. Bourbon is known throughout Europe and America for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish, Middle Eastern and Russian stylings into uncharted Territories. Each year Mr. Bourbon plays more than 100 concerts around the world. He is currently based in the United Kingdom. Visit www.claudebourbon.org for a sneak preview. This should be a very enjoyable recital and we hope you will join us to hear Mr. Bourbon.

Any questions or comments? Please contact Karen Greene in person or 610-430-3858 or greenepark26@verizon.net.

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Church Street Block Party

BLOCK PARTY!

Saint Peter’s Church will participate in the Church Street Block Party on September 24. The family centered event will be held between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm in the area of the Senior Center parking lot. The block party will have free events for children, music, and food available for all. There will also be a raffle with the grand prize of \$1,000.00. 25 vendors and nonprofits (including our church) will have information available. Please plan to attend.

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Reflections on Stewardship



Driving down a country road several days ago, I was surprised to see a sudden shower of small

brown leaves fluttering to the ground. It was actually an astonishing event as the days prior had been ones of intense heat and humidity and, suddenly, here were signs of an approaching autumn. As August draws to a close, it is fun to think of all the good things that the coming weeks hold. Children are looking forward to a new year at school while parents anticipate all sorts of activities; perhaps the return of fall sports, or the opportunity to go to an apple orchard to pick apples, or the chance to cook a hearty stew and pull out a well-loved wool sweater.

At St. Peter’s Church, we look forward to greeting friends who have been away on vacations; the return of Godly Play for our children; the beautiful music the choir will again provide during worship; a congregational picnic; and importantly, the various opportunities to love and serve our friends in need in the community.

This season also signals the time when we at St. Peter’s reflect upon our commitment for sharing time, talent, and treasure in the new year. Look for a letter from the Stewardship Committee soon. And on Sunday, September 25, Father Koshy’s sermon will bring a message of stewardship to us. Following the 10:30 service the Committee invites you to join us at the fellowship hour for a brunch and a time of fun. We look forward to greeting you on that day!

The Stewardship Committee: *Marty Bloem, Dave Brennfleck, Leo Guen, Kay Hooper, Diane Hope, Frank Rothenberger, Eric Sharpe, Retta Sparano, and Mona Chylack*

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Mission News



Thank you to all who have contributed to making this year’s El Salvador mission a great success with your thoughts, prayers and/or

financial support! Yes, the 6 missionaries from St. Peter's who participated in Cristosal's School of Global Engagement are back and filled with new knowledge to share about the topic of focus which was environmental and global warming issues. Our group was enhanced by joining with 5 others, mainly from California, along with 5 Salvadorans. We were taught by top environmental scientists and gained further perspective by doing site visits. The main message learned is that global warming is a serious and urgent issue and it is definitely time for us all, including the church, to call for actions to mitigate the issue in any way. There are many actions that can be taken, and an environmental issues committee will be formed soon. This year's missionaries would be happy to share their knowledge learned and discuss questions/concerns with you too. Those missionaries are: Fr. Koshy, Gary Russell, Cindy Hammaker, Sarah Hammaker, Karen Mitten and Stephanie Mitten.

Also, September will be quite an eventful month with the director of Cristosal, Noah Bullock, and assistant director, Hannah Perls coming to Phoenixville! On September 16th at 6PM at the home of Mike and Erica Logar (93 Hearth Stone Circle, Phoenixville), there will be a social, "Friendraiser" event with Noah as the guest speaker. Please come and hear about the amazing works of Cristosal and what they are doing to advocate for and protect those who are forcibly displaced by violence. Please RSVP to Retta Sparano at rettasparano@gmail.com. Noah and Hannah will be hosted by St. Peter's during that weekend but they will be traveling in our surrounding area to visit and talk with other diocese churches and leaders. Then, on Sunday, September 18th at 3PM, there will be another opportunity to listen to Noah at the Copperfield Inn when you can view a videostream of Noah giving a talk to the parishioners and leaders of St. Paul's, Chestnut Hill. It is a great honor that Cristosal looks toward St. Peter's as a key supporter and we're excited to show our support to them in September! Thank you again everyone!

Without Differences: Only One World *Mercedes Sánchez*

Thanks to the Cristosal Global School, US Americans and Salvadorans came together the second week of August in San Salvador, El Salvador, to learn about a topic that makes clear that all of our differences in nationality, language, religion, race, age, and socioeconomic condition become null as we confront this reality that we all, without exclusion, should confront: climate change.

The seminar, *Liberation Theology and Liberation Science: An Innovative Approach to Climate Change Education*, was facilitated by the professor, Steven H. Emerman, from Utah Valley University. Through his warm and kind disposition paired with his seriousness, he made sure that all of the participants would understand why the climate is changing and the implications this has for our planet. Emerman was able to convert our group into a curious child who desired to learn and understand, because in the end our different ages and languages didn't hold us back from taking advantage of every moment of this formative process.

During the seminar we had the opportunity to travel to the Ánimas EcoCenter, located in the department of Cuscatlán, to learn about their perspective on this theme of climate change. The director of the Salvadoran Center of Appropriate Technology (CESTA), Ricardo Navarro, with his powerful voice and restless hands, shared with us a discouraging overview of the evidence of global warming that the world is already suffering.

We also had the opportunity to share some of our stories as Salvadorans and to reflect on the social, political and economic reality in which we live. It is noteworthy to mention the interest and respect with which the visitors learned about our reality. It was very powerful for me to listen to Sarah express over lunch one day that she, as a citizen of the United States, felt bad knowing the history of our country and knowing

the role her government played during the armed conflict.

We also were able to visit the Monseñor Romero Center, a space located on the Central American University “José Simeón Cañas” campus. While we visited this center the Jesuit priest, Rafael De Sivatte, explained Liberation Theology and how this theology continues to live in El Salvador through the Christian Base Communities. These communities live out their faith by following four steps: see the reality, judge the reality, act in order to change the reality, and celebrate to raise spirits and to celebrate the actions taken.

Within this same center we also toured the Martyr Memorial Museum which is a space that contains many objects telling the story of the assassination of the six Jesuit priests and their two collaborators, who were all executed on November 16, 1989. One of the displays contains the clothes that the martyrs were wearing the night they were massacred, and even though time has passed, the holes that the bullets left upon entering the bodies of the priests still express the dark side of that which is the grace of being a martyr. We were also able to take some time to reflect in the Rose Garden, a place where, after the massacre, the Jesuit community gardner decided to plant red roses in memory of the priests: Ignacio Ellacuría, the president of the university at the time, Ignacio Martín-Baró, Segundo Montes, Juan Ramón Moreno, Amando López, Joaquín López y López, and yellow roses in memory of his wife Elba Ramos and their daughter, Celina.

We also attended a celebration of the word, equivalent to a mass, with the Christian Base Community El Pueblo de Dios en Camino, located in the marginalized community of San Ramón in San Salvador. While there we reflected on parts of Pope Francis’ encyclica, “Praise Be To You”, using the gospel as illumination, we discussed the uses of technology, especially the cell phone. We discussed how technology has created distance and separated us from one another. Pacita, a sociologist who dedicates her time teaching

children in a rural elementary school, led us in reflection and called on us to “not allow our hearts to be cauterized”, that is to say, to not lose sensibility and to not be indolent in the face of the reality of the poor.

Without a doubt, through this experience we found responses to our questions about climate change, we learned how mother nature reacts to the avarice of humankind, and we also were able to find ourselves, recognize one another as human beings, children of the same father and mother, sharing the same home: Earth.

Mercedes Sánchez lives in a community called San Hilario, located in the coastal zone of the Jiquilisco municipality in the department of Usulután. Through scholarships she has been able to participate in studies of Journalism at the University of El Salvador (UES) and of Digital Communication at the Central American University “José Simeón Cañas (UCA). Currently she spends her time teaching theater and documenting the historical memory of many members of her community who participated in the armed conflict that El Salvador lived.

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You'll Find A Welcome Here!



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.

First Christian Church, Sebring, Florida

Financial Update – June, 2016
from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- Income
 - Total open plate donations through March were \$13,203 which is about \$3.7K in excess of budget which offset an overall pledge shortfall of about \$1K at \$119,016 through June. There was also a shortfall of individual pledges of about \$7K.
 - Total operating income was \$141,618 after removal of pass-through income and other non-operational income totaling \$13,800. Operating income is about \$5K in excess of budget in the first 2 quarters primarily because of better than anticipated open plate donations.
 - Total income, including pass-thru income of \$23K, was \$178,103.
- Expense
 - Total operating expenses were \$137,796 and about \$2K less than expected through the first half of the year. Expenses continue to be controlled and less than anticipated. Operating expenses are sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$3,822.
 - Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$21K, were \$167,942 through June.
- St. Peter's reported net income of \$10,374 through June.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 6/30/16):

- Checking: \$14,210
- Savings: \$39,037
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$14,172
- Mission: \$7,786
- Building Maintenance: \$18,777
- Concert Series: \$3,231
- NEW Capital Campaign: \$33,074
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$143,550**

Thank you all for your continued and generous support of St. Peter's.

September Worship Participants

Acolytes

- 4 Vernet Spence-Brown
11:00 Libby Andrews
Emma Martz, Sean Magee
18:00 James Hammaker
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
25:00 Brandon Rennie
Michael Logar, Sydney Alling

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 4 Jack Susskind
11 Glenn Murray
18 Lisa Scott
25 Joan Grunwell

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 4 Kim Thornton, Cindy Giancaterino
11:00 Judi Hans, Vernet Spence-Brown
18:00 Mike Logar, Pat Howse
25:00 Lady Rennie, Marva Young

Lectors - 8:00 am

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

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 4 Trevor Hall, Jan Wier
Georgette Druckenmiller *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller, Carol Russell *chalicists*
11:00 Susan Mathews, Jolie Chylack
Phoebe Foerster *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
18:00 Michael Logar, Todd Jackson
Marty Bloem *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
25:00 Catherine Chylack, Ron Druckenmiller
Joyce Paster *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*

Ushers

- 4 Clem Young, Sam Smith
11:00 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
18:00 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
25:00 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

September Celebrations



- [1] Barnes Jacobs
[2] Andrew Tosco, Allison Tosco
[4] June Blausen
[7] Beverly Burkhardt, Finn Sutter
[8] Glenn Murray, Vincent Giancaterino
[9] Fred Park, Minita Hivale
[10] Christopher Wilson
[11] Megan Wilson
[12] Daniel Coleman, Jr.
[13] Katie Druckenmiller, Reece Farnum
[14] Tom Weiss, Colin Parker
[16] Georgette Druckenmiller, Kavita Hivale;
[17] John Young, Andrew Grace
[18] Jean Getzey
[19] Raymond K. Forester, Jr.
[20] Colin Craig
[26] Joan Grunwell
[28] James Tackett, Dahlia Boone
[29] Cathy Sullens, Kenneth Henry



- [4] David and Shelly Brennfleck
[8] David and Lisa Scott
[17] Frank and Nancy Giampietro
[18] Ben and Sarah Ohanesian;
[24] Donald and Lisa Brock
[30] Clem and Marva Young