

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,

Happy New Year!

It was wonderful to have our children with us this Christmas. As they live in Arizona and California, it isn't often we get to enjoy being with each other. Opening gifts with them on Christmas morning was fun, especially now that our grandson is beginning to get into the spirit of giving and receiving. I noticed how quickly we opened the gifts we bought for each other, considering the time spent buying, wrapping and placing them neatly under the tree. As we were opening each gift, we were anticipating opening the next one. It is always the next one, isn't it? Our inability to enjoy the present moment reminded me of the old Charlie Brown cartoon caption, "Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a GIFT. That's why it's called the present." Christmas is God's gift of love; not for just one day. It's the season of God's present and presence, Immanuel "God with us", all the time.

A card I received this Christmas from a friend had a poem penned by her called 'River Birth' which reads:

*"You came to be with us, a song from the river of God poured down.
We needed your rhythm, the rush of a new way, torrents of kindness,
parched as we were and despairing.
We needed to stand in the depths, trust the current for healing.
We needed these waters humming, then singing, calling us each by
name."*

(N. Thomas, 2016)

As we bid goodbye to 2016 and usher in 2017, it feels unlike any other time before. We are heading into uncertain times, as we wait to see how the new administration's declared stances on a wide range of issues that affect our lives and future will play out as they begin to put their policies into action. I perfectly understand if some of you don't share my concerns. However, you might agree with me that people in our country never have experienced this much alienation as they do now. Let us pray that the new president and his administration will be good for all of us, eschewing racism, misogyny, nativism, militarism, bullying of people who are vulnerable, and embracing world peace, climate science, and welfare of society before profit. Let us hold these words of our Lord, "Truly I tell you whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me" as the plumb line in judging our new administration.

Keeping this in mind, St. Peter's will hold a Peace Vigil on Saturday, January 14 at 4 PM. This vigil will provide a venue for the vulnerable people in our midst to voice their concerns and for the faith communities to offer a place of refuge, a sanctuary for the 'least of these' as their faith requires them. St. Peter's hosting of this event is in character with our historical role

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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, Music Director
Judith M. Dougherty, Parish Secretary
Maria Yanez, Sexton

Vestry

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

How to contact St. Peter's

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Email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com

Web site: www.saintpeterschurch.net

What's Happening At St. Peter's January 2017

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as a beacon of hope for the successive generations of vulnerable populations who came to Phoenixville in years past.

At St. Peter’s, Christmas is a way of being; we are an open and affirming community of people, denying no one a place of refuge.

Blessings,

Koshy

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Deacon’s Roundtable

“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayers of the faithful will save the sick and the Lord will raise them up....”
(James 5:14-15)

During Holy Week each Lent the clergy of the diocese attend a special service with our bishop where special oils are prepared and blessed for healing of the sick and chrism for use in blessing those baptized into God’s one Holy Catholic Church. Quantities of these oils are then brought back to our parishes for the benefit of our parishioners.

A time during the receiving of the Eucharist is set aside the first Sunday of each month to utilize the oils prepared for the sick. Deacon Joe, after receiving communion at both services, retires to the Lady Chapel in order to be present for those who wish to avail themselves of this sacramental.

Each person is anointed and signed with the Sign of the Cross. Prayers are offered for those experiencing a time of illness, anxiety or spiritual pain. The prayers are tailored for that person’s special concerns. One can also come forward to receive prayers for a loved one or friend who cannot be present.

As James points out in his epistle, we are encouraged to bring our concerns to the Lord for healing, forgiveness and peace of mind. One can also request prayers and anointing at other times either on Sundays or during the week at their homes.

Feel free to speak with any of the clergy about receiving this sacramental. I know for a fact that anointing and prayers have brought many people peace and comfort.

I pray God’s richest blessings to each of you in this New Year.

Deacon Joe

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January 15, 2017 4:00 p.m.
Music @ St. Peter’s Concert Series Presents:
Amici Strings Orchestra

The Orchestra will perform: *Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi; *St. Paul’s Suite* by Gustav Holst; *Lullaby* by George Gershwin and *Libertango* by Astor Piazzolla.

Guest soloist for *Four Seasons* and *St. Paul’s Suite* will be Paul Roby of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

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Annual Reports for 2016



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 12, 2017 [ONE Service ONLY at 10:00 a.m.] **Absolute DEADLINE for reports to be received in the parish office is January 29th.**

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Altar Flowers



Many Sundays go by without having flowers on the Altar and you are invited to sponsor a Sunday. The placements can be made as a thanksgiving for a birthday, an anniversary, the birth of a child/grandchild, in memory of a loved one. Our resident florist, Ron Druckenmiller will bill you directly, the current cost is approximately \$60 [tax included] for the two altar vases. You can also make this an annual placement.

Contact the Parish Office, 610-933-2195, for availability of a Sunday.

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Stewardship

We have just completed such a beautiful season in our Church life with Advent and Christmas. The wonderful and traditional music provided by our choir brings such meaning to this spiritual time. These are the same songs and hymns that are sung generation after generation and they bring us great comfort.

I recently heard an interview with composer, conductor and teacher Alice Parker, who was born in Boston, MA in 1925. She began composing early, and wrote her first orchestral score while still in high school. She graduated from Smith College with a major in music performance and composition, then received her master's degree from the Juilliard School where she studied choral conducting. Her life's work has been in choral and vocal music, combining composing, conducting and teaching in a creative balance.

Through her organization, Melodious Accord, Inc., she strives to enrich lives through creating communities of sound, with the belief that melody is an unparalleled means of communication for human beings, and that singing together brings immediate benefits to those who join in this most participatory of all the arts.

Parker notes that singing is something that is immediately available to us all. It requires no paint or brushes, no instruments or lessons. Song is founded on breath alone and is fundamentally human. When our challenge, these days, is to understand each other, song can be a companionable art, as we are all one in song. She states that people may have different languages and experiences, but a lullaby is a lullaby all over the world. What a marvelous simple gift.

Diane Hope
Stewardship Committee

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News from St. Peter's Pantry



It just seemed like we celebrated Thanksgiving and then lo and behold it was Christmas. We at the pantry hope everyone had great holidays and

found time to relax and enjoy them after all the hustle and bustle for preparing for Christmas.

Due to the generosity of this wonderful Parish, both our Saturday and Monday holiday pantries were successful. The weather caused some concern for the Saturday Christmas Pantry and it was difficult for some of the folks to get here, but thankfully we had a Monday evening Pantry so we were able to feed well over 100 families in total. It has been a very rewarding year for everyone who serves in the pantry and those who receive from us. I sometimes wonder who really receives the greatest satisfaction.

We continue to feed between 80 to 100 families each pantry. They not only get their choice of food they want or need but also get a great breakfast on Saturdays served by the Breakfast Ministry of St. Peter's with help from VFWC and the Vineyard Church. On Monday nights they get a lovely meal served by St. Gabriel's Kitchen.

The volunteers of St. Peter's Pantry extend our heartfelt wish that everyone has a safe and Happy New Year. We continue to look for your support.

Your faithful pantry

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Environmental Ministry at St. Peter's

Love your environment



...be proud of it.

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As 2017 is upon us, a new environmental ministry is forming at St. Peter's Church and you are invited to join! Initial ideas are that ministry will have a mission to foster an

appreciation for God's creation, to live lighter in our homes and at church, and finally to partner with like-minded groups and organizations in the Phoenixville community to enhance and share our ideas. If you have a passion for conservation and our outdoor world, please consider joining the committee to help spearhead the mission. Additionally, if you know of anyone else who might be willing to join, please let us know.

Our first meeting will be held in Father Koshy's Study at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, January 16th. We'll discuss new ideas for our mission, those that have been brought to the table during preliminary meetings and recommendations from the missionaries who attended the Cristosal program on climate change this summer. The committee will welcome any and all creative ideas you might have to make this effort one that everyone at St. Peter's can embrace.

For more information, please contact Jolie Chylack by phone **610.792.8860** or email **jchylack@msn.com**

Additionally, in preparation for our new ministry, please consider watching the following Sundance Film Festival winning documentary on climate change: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5RYBGJDCAI>

This critically acclaimed film was directed by award-winning National Geographic photographer, James Balong, who was once a climate change skeptic.

National Geographic Documentary: Chasing Ice Natural World www.youtube.com

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Financial Update – November, 2016

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- **Income**
 - Total open plate donations through November were \$27,335 which is about \$10K in excess of budget. Total pledge income was \$217K which represents a shortfall of about \$3.9K.
 - Total operating income was \$252,511 after removal of pass-through income and other non-operational income.
 - Operating income continues to be in excess of the budget of \$246K because of increased open plate income.
 - Total income, including pass-thru income of \$44K, was \$334,789.

- **Expense**
 - Total operating expenses were \$251,351 after removal of pass-through expenses and other non-operational expense. Operating expenses continue to be close to budgeted operating expenses of \$250K
 - Operating expenses through November were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$1,160.
 - Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$50K, were \$322,540 through November.

- Total expenses were sufficiently covered by total income with a surplus of \$12,583.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 11/30/16):

- Checking: \$8,144
- Savings: \$39,062
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$10,920
- Mission: \$3,833
- Building Maintenance: \$32,547
- Concert Series: \$4,484
- NEW Capital Campaign: \$33,129
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$145,581**

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

January Birthdays



- [3] Sue Meadows
- [4] Todd Jackson
- [5] Karen Greene
- [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
- [29] Kacie Vargo, Stephanie Mitten,
- [31] James Sim

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January Worship Service Participants

Acolytes

- 1 9:00** Vernet Spence-Brown
Mali Warren, Sean Magee
- 8** Libby Andrews
Emma Martz, Sydney Alling
- 15** Ryan Sutter
Phoebe Foerster, Tre Foerster
- 22** James Hammaker
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 29** Frank Rothenberger
Mali Warren, Sean Magee

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 1** One Service Only - 9:00 a.m.
- 8** Glenn Murray
- 15** Lisa Scott
- 22** Joan Grunwell
- 29** Jack Susskind

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 1** One Service ONLY - 9:00 a.m.
- 8** Anne Holbrook
- 15** Henry Young
- 22** Lisa Scott
- 29** Anne Holbrook

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 1** Anne Andrews, Anne Atlee
- 8** Judy Hans, Mike Logar
- 15** Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 22** Cindy Giancaterino, Vernet Spence-Brown
- 29** Marva Young, Kim Thornton

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 1 9:00** TBA, Ron Druckenmiller, *chalicist*
- 8** Asha George-Guiser, Phoebe Foerster
Leo Guen *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 15** Trevor Hall, David Brennfleck
Jolie Chylack *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 22** Todd Jackson, Carol Russell
Marty Bloem *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller, *chalicist*
- 29** Karen Martz, Susan Mathews
Retta Sparano *intercessor*
Lou Steffenhagen *chalicist*

Ushers

- 1** Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 8** Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 15** Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 22** Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
- 29** John Andrews, Mark Hammaker

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