

SAINT PETER'S NET

JESUS SAID TO PETER, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE."
MATTHEW 4:19

A Word From the Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

I trust you all had a blessed Holy Week and Easter. We had increased attendance for each service, and it was good to see our church overflowing on Easter Sunday. The joy felt when we said out loud "Alleluia, Christ is Risen, the Lord is Risen indeed Alleluia" was awesome. The Easter joy we experience comes from our Lord's resurrection and victory of life over death, light over darkness, and truth over lies. Whether this Easter joy will continue to be present in our lives depends on how we experience the resurrection in our own lives. Unless our Easter experience develops into having Christ consciousness as it did for Mary Magdalene, who said, "I have seen the Lord," it is short lived and will have no lasting significance. It remains for us a mere cultural experience.

As I further reflect on our Holy Week and Easter services, one word that keeps coming back to me is 'gratitude.' I'm grateful for the beauty of our church; its gothic architecture, stained glass windows, and dark interiors are very inviting to an aesthetically oriented worshipper to have a meaningful and holy experience with the divine just by being there. It is a wonderful legacy from the generations who have gone before us. I thank Ron Druckenmiller for his unique gift for decorating the church, perfectly portraying the moods of Holy Week beginning with the euphoria of Palm Sunday through the melancholy of Maundy Thursday and the sheer sadness of Good Friday to the jubilation of Easter. Simply stupendous!

Another great legacy we have is our magnificent liturgy, made up of readings, prayers, canticles, hymns and psalms accumulated over thousands of years. Music by our rejuvenated choir under the leadership of Karen Greene and the additions of the string quartet on Palm Sunday and brass on Easter greatly enhanced our worship experience. The ministry of our altar guild with Sue Meadows at the helm, made sure that there were adequate supplies of altar linens for each mass, and the altar frontals and accessories go with the color scheme of each service. My special thanks go to the altar guild.

Ushers were really on the top of their game. They rose to the occasion in directing our overflow crowd on Easter, and paid attention to every detail of the service. Thank you to Jim Tackett and team. I want to give a special thanks to our acolytes. Even with increasing demands on their time, our acolytes came on time, and seeing that we were going to be short, younger and adult acolytes stepped in and made our worship experience really reverential and beautiful. The lectors at all the services and passion participants on Palm Sunday and Good Friday all did a superb job in reading the Holy Scriptures. Let me also thank my colleagues, Joe Dietz, Dennis Coleman, Lou Steffenhagen and Asha George-Guiser for their participations in the liturgy and their dynamic preaching.

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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. Joseph Dietz, *Deacon*
Rev. Dennis Coleman, *Deacon*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Karen Greene, *Music Director*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2018	Frank Rothenberger Retta Sparano Jan Wier
2019	Raymond Forester Karen Martz Brian Prato
2020	Judi Hans Vincent Giancaterino Julia Sharpe

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 May 2017

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I am extremely thankful to each and every one of you. As I'm anticipating my retirement in two years, I feel that as a church we are in a good place, and I thank God for each and every one of you.

Let us continue to lead our lives in the Easter spirit of joy and hope.

Blessings,

Koshy

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Deacon's Roundtable

I was moved on Maundy Thursday by our Lord's command to wash each other's feet and by His sharing of Himself through the breaking of the bread and drinking from the cup. By using simple food for life, bread and wine, Jesus is asking us to remember him in the Eucharist.

When we gather as a body to celebrate this Eucharist in our sanctuary each Sunday we proclaim not only the death of Jesus but our belief that He is risen and will come again to take us to Himself. Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ every week of our lives causes us to wait in joyful hope for this coming. This hope is foundational to our lives as disciples of Christ.

We come to the Mass with particular attitudes. We come, aware of our need to be nourished by the Bread of Life and our need to be transformed along with the bread and wine. We come, aware that we are one with a community who gathers, are fed, and then go out into the world to serve the Christ in others. By gathering to celebrate Eucharist we participate in a living act of worship and a preparation for service.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Deacon Joe

A Word from Deacon ||

One word – Mizpah.

Deacon Dennis

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DAY by DAY



The May/June/July issue of *DAY by DAY* [Forward] is now available in the Narthex Tract Rack.

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Ascension Day – Thursday, May 25th



40 days after the Festival of Easter the Church celebrates Ascension Day. As Christ ascended into heaven, we are left with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. 10 days following Ascension Day we celebrate Pentecost, the day the Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ascension Day, much like Ash Wednesday is a feast that falls on a weekday and has lost the importance that it deserves.

The Ascension is an important part in the life and ministry of Jesus, a day that we should celebrate and remember with great joy. On Thursday, May 25th, at 7:30 p.m. we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension at **St. John's Church, Norristown**. We hope you will join us for this festive occasion, and to celebrate our great commission.

Celebrate our New Members



On Sunday, May 21 at the 10:00 service, the New Member Ministry/Growth Committee will be hosting a celebration to recognize our newest members. We will have a special coffee hour and our newcomers will receive a blessing. If you have joined Saint Peter's within the past year and would like to be recognized, please contact the church office at saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com or Judi Hans at JudithHans@comcast.net.

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Sponsorship of Altar Flowers



Did you know that you can place Sunday Altar Flowers? There are quite a few "open" Sunday's on our list and flowers can be placed in thanksgiving, i.e. birthdays, anniversaries or in memory of a loved one. Our "in house" florist, Ron Druckenmiller, arranges the flowers and will bill you directly. The placements can be made "one-time-only" or on an annual basis and the current cost is \$60 [tax included] for the two Altar arrangements.

For availability of a Sunday, contact the Parish Office, at 610-933-2195 Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon, or by email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com

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Greetings from the Pantry!



I hope everyone had a happy Easter. This Easter seemed extra special. The weather was great, the homilies from our clergy during holy week were inspiring and the music by the choir was so beautiful throughout the week and "over the top" for Easter Sunday.

What really added to this Easter being "special", was that we were able to offer our pantry guests "extras" due to the generosity of each and everyone one who donated to our Easter pantry. It was really a great feeling to be able to say..... "certainly, take one of each if you like." We served over 100 families and had enough "extras" for everyone.

We are looking for several volunteers to pick up Panera bread on Friday nights before a pantry day, once every 6 to 8 weeks. Volunteers would need to be at Panera bread at 9 p.m. and bringing the bread directly to the church or by 8 a.m. on Saturday. If you are able to help, please contact Doreen at Penczer@comcast.net.

Perhaps someday someone will create new words or a phrase that means "THANK YOU" but until then, the tried and true "THANK YOU" will have to do. The pantry is a wonderful mission of St. Peter's due to the support of the parish and our teams of faithful volunteers so again "THANK YOU"

Sincerely, your ever faithful pantry

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El Salvador Mission News

Cindy Hamaker 610-933-3806; chamaker@verizon.net



Happy Eastertide and thank you to all who participated in the reflective activity of setting a dollar a day aside during the Lenten season and

then donating that amount towards supporting St. Peter's youth El Salvador experience this summer! The funds received will have a significant impact on making the trip financially manageable for 3 St. Peter's youth who will be participating in Cristosal's Global School from June 24 to July 1st. There will be 3 chaperones and one more youth outside of St. Peter's joining our group. This youth based interactive experience will focus on understanding social justice issues of the poor while guiding and encouraging youth to become more proactive in mitigating these issues even in their home communities. What an awesome opportunity that St. Peter's is offering our youth!

Also, please mark your calendars for a Jamaican Dinner on June 17th from 6 to 9 at St. Peter's! This fundraising event for mission travel will be loads of fun with great food, song and even some dance! So, you can stay tuned for more information on this exciting event coming soon! Thank you again for your support of the amazing faith journey opportunities offered at St. Peter's!

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Let Your Service Begin



Almost four years ago I relocated to Chester Springs and, soon thereafter, happily discovered St. Peter's Episcopal Church. I found the place at last where my heart sings and my soul is made glad with inspiring sermons, uplifting music, and beautiful surroundings within a welcoming community of Christ-centered love. But most importantly I found a place where my time and talents could be useful. I heard "The Call" loud and clear after The Benediction one Sunday service from Deacon Dennis when, in his booming and beckoning voice from the rear

of the sanctuary, he said: "This service has ended. Now let your service begin." What a wonderful invitation that was! At coffee following that service I asked Dennis what I could do and how I could be useful. He listed areas of potential interest to me. As I considered each of his suggestions that evening I was reminded of the quote (often but questionably attributed to St. Teresa of Ávila):

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Being useful is something we all can be. I found my place in the service of St. Peter's Pantry. You may prefer to sing in the choir, guide our children, serve on a committee or serve a meal to a shut-in. There are many opportunities...just ask Dennis! Find your usefulness, that service to others, that makes your heart sing and your soul glad.

Kay Hooper, Stewardship Committee

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Envelopes ??



Do YOU have a box of 2017 Giving Envelopes? PLEASE contact the parish office either by phone or email and a box will be prepared for you.

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Financial Update – March, 2017

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through March 2017 is outlined below.

- Income
 - Total open plate donations through March were \$5.1K and pledge income was \$65,965. Pledge income and open plate donations are slightly less than budget.
 - Total operating income was \$80,983 after removal of pass-through income of \$8,798, which continues to be higher than expected.
 - Total income was \$89,781 through March.
- Expense
 - Total operating expenses were \$70,263 after removal of pass-through expenses of \$10,304.
 - Operating expenses continue to be close to budgeted expenses of \$71,350 and includes \$2.1K in painting and plaster repair and \$3.1K in boiler repairs
 - Operating expenses through March were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$10,720.
 - Total expenses were \$86,263.
- Total expenses were sufficiently covered by total income with a surplus of \$3,518.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 3/31/17):

- Checking: \$18,385
- Savings: \$39,066
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$8,218
- Mission: \$3,801
- Building Maintenance: \$38,911
- Concert Series: \$4,488
- NEW Capital Campaign: \$34,077
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$160,408**

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

Who is Who?

The Rev. Dr. Asha George-Guier

I was born as the third child to my parents in Kuwait since my dad, who is from Kerala, India was working for the Kuwait Oil company in the 1940s. When I was ten, we returned to Kerala and I attended the MarThoma (orthodox church) in my home town where I learned to appreciate the presence of God in worship and learned the stories of the Bible in Sunday school. I was deeply transformed by the love and care of the Roman Catholic nuns at my local school where I loved learning and serving others. My parents instilled the Indian culture by building a dance school on our property and my sister and I excelled in classical Indian dancing and I used the art of dancing in liturgy and developed liturgical dance troupes in my ministry.

At age 16, I was blessed to receive a full tuition scholarship to Neuman university as a pre – med major to come to the USA. I wrestled with my faith and the patriarchal rigid systems of the MarThoma church during my college years and realized there was no room in the inn for me as a woman of faith in my home church. I was sponsored by the Lutherans and chose to become a Lutheran while serving in Camden, New Jersey. Upon rejection from medical school, God called me to ordained ministry and I graduated from Lutheran Theological seminary in 1982, I was ordained as the first Asian woman clergy in the Lutheran church in the world on May 15, 1982. I completed my Doctorate in marriage and family therapy in 1994. God used me as his servant to serve as youth pastor, adult faith formation coach, teacher and director, preacher for the national Lutheran assembly, national staff person for clergy vocation and mobility, assistant to the local bishop, assistant pastor for 30 years with my husband, The Rev. Kim Guier at a local church and presently, for the past 17 years, being a licensed Christian counselor in practice in Blue Bell. Kim and I have a 22-year-old daughter, Preeya who is a student at Northeastern University in Boston.

When my husband and I retired in June 2016 from parish ministry, Deacon Dennis Coleman had invited us to visit St Peter's. We were drawn to St Peter's by its mission, compassion for the poor, liturgy and most of all its hospitality to a very diverse community. My two favorite scriptures that form, transform and reform me are:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the poor; extend hospitality to strangers.

(Romans 12:12-13)

You are blessed when you are at the end of the rope. With less of you, there is more of God and his rule.

(Matthew 5:3)

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May Birthdays



- [1] Lenora Thornton, Sean Magee, Clara Boone
- [9] Emily Bindschusz
- [10] Pat Howse, Carol Russell
- [13] Grace Druckenmiller
- [16] Amy Brodar
- [19] Clem Young, Eric Phillips
- [23] Tara Young
- [24] Jacob Schaefer
- [26] Terri Coleman
- [28] Susan Mathews
- [29] Vernet Spence-Brown
- [30] Thomas Hammaker, Matthew Hope

May Anniversaries



- [5] Kim Guier and Asha George-Guier
- [7] Henry Young and Andrea Archer
- [13] Michael and Erica Logar
- [14] Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- [22] Bill and Cathy Sullens
- [28] Christopher and Diane Hope
- Koshy and Susan Mathews
- [29] Vivek and Minita Hivale

May Worship Service Participants

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

7 Joan Grunwell
14 Lisa Scott
21 Volunteer Needd
28 Glenn Murray

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

7 Alexis Radouane
Ron Gaugler *chalcist*
14 Louis Steffenhagen
21 Henry Young
28 Ron Gaugler

Acolytes

7 Frank Rothenberger
Emma Martz, Katie Parker
14 Vernet Spence-Brown
Colin Parker, Libby Andrews
21 James Hammaker
Isaac Nagy, M.J. Kiernan
28 Brandon Rennie
Sydney Alling, Libby Andrews

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

7 Cindy Giancaterino, Kim Thornton
14 Marva Young, Judi Hans
21 Pat Howse, Anne Andrews
28 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

7 Mona Chylack, Sarah Ohanesian
Phoebe Foerster *intercessor*
Louis Steffenhagen *chalcist*
Vernet Spence Brown *chalcist*
14 Asha George-Guiser, Carol Russell
Leo Guen *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalcist*
21 Trevor Hall, Jan Wier
Marty Bloem *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalcist*
28 Todd Jackson, Joyce Paster
Sarah Ohanesian *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalcist*

Ushers

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

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The Holy Scriptures

Catechism: BCP page 853



Q. What are the Holy Scriptures?

A. The Holy Scriptures, commonly called the Bible, are the books of the Old and New Testaments; other books, called the Apocrypha, are often included in the Bible.

Q. What is the Old Testament?

A. The Old Testament consists of books written by the people of the Old Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to show God at work in nature and history.

Q. What is the New Testament?

A. The New Testament consists of books written by the people of the New Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to set forth the life and teachings of Jesus and to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom for all people.

Q. What is the Apocrypha?

A. The Apocrypha is a collection of additional books written by people of the Old Covenant, and used in the Christian Church.

Q. Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?

A. We call them the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.

Q. How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

A. We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures.