

# 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,

Gary Russell and I recently returned from El Salvador. As a church, we have been engaging in this mission for the last eleven years. Some in our church ask why we are still in this mission and going back to the same place over and over again. The question is not whether we should be having a mission, but why there and why this long? I would like to provide the rationale for our mission engagement in El Salvador.

First of all, church exists for doing God's mission in the world. During the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, He sent out His disciples two by two to the towns and villages in Samaria and Judea to do His mission. He told them to stay with whatever town or village that welcomed them. Following that model today we are more engaged in our local area of Phoenixville doing God's mission of feeding the vulnerable. And at the time of Jesus' ascension, He gave His disciples the Great Commission to go into the uttermost part of the world preaching, baptizing and reconciling people to God. Our ministry and mission in El Salvador is part of fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission, and we continue to be part of this mission because this is where we are welcomed to walk in solidarity.

The disciples waited in Jerusalem till Pentecost for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to begin to carry out His mission. Pentecost marked the beginning of their ministry and mission both at home and abroad, and we today, as Jesus' modern day disciples, continue this work. Emil Brunner, the Swiss theologian, wrote, "The church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning." Where there is no mission, the church suffers. Church cannot justify its existence without being engaged in mission. I often wonder why there is this decline in church membership, especially among mainstream denominations. It is not because of a lack of harvest. As a matter of fact, it is due to lack of mission engagement. As at the time of Jesus, today the harvest is plenty but the laborers are few.

November is also the month when the new church year begins with the first advent that sets off the holiday season. There is something reassuring about the cyclical nature of our calendar. While time is linear it is also cyclical; for every ending there is new beginning.

More than ever, today in El Salvador, harvest is plenty and the laborers are few. There is a huge opportunity for churches to get engaged in the work of providing safe places for ex-gang members who are ready to reconcile with the society and become productive citizens of their country. In El Salvador this time Gary and I had the rare opportunity to sit, converse, and pray with ex hardcore adult gang members. On another day we sat with ex-gang teenage boys in a detention center listening to their stories and poetries of longing to go back to their villages and families. Church's message of forgiveness and reconciliation is like a balm Giliad for these ex-gang members especially at a time when society turns a blind eye towards them

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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*  
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*  
Karen Greene, *Music Director*  
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*  
Gabriel Yanez, *Sexton*

### Vestry

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

### How to contact St. Peter's

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## November 2017

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and the government does not distinguish them from gangs. We thank God for the brave pastors and young volunteers who are providing a new beginning for these people and opening the doors for reconciliation. We also thank Cristosal Foundation whose years of human rights work have earned them such credibility that they are able to serve as a mediator between governmental institutions and grass roots organizations. I say that we continue our mission work in El Salvador just as we continue our work in our local context.

In Christ, *Koshy*

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## Deacon's Roundtable

Taking the cup, Jesus gave thanks. We do the same every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

Giving thanks is the heart of the Eucharist. That is why the early Christians called the Lord's Supper "the Eucharist." The name Eucharist is not found in the New Testament, but the Greek verb for, to give thanks, appears many times when the New Testament refers to the Eucharist.

In the first century, there were other names for the Eucharist. In I Corinthians, Paul referred to the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:20). In his gospel and in the Acts of the Apostles, Luke referred to "the breaking of bread" (Luke 24:35; Acts 2:42).

We still use these New Testament names, but today the most popular name is the Eucharist. Eucharist—giving thanks—says what is distinctive about the Lord's Supper and the Breaking of the Bread.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave thanks for the grace of salvation and the new life that would flow from his passion and resurrection. In that, the word "grace" is most important. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we thank God for the grace of the new life we have and the salvation that God offers us. We give thanks for

God's loving mercy, for the fulfillment of Christ's mission, for the Holy Spirit that quickens us and the life and mission of the church.

At the heart of the Eucharist is the Eucharistic Prayer. Beginning with the preface and concluding with the Great Amen, the Eucharistic prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the distinguishing mark of the Christian attitude. When we remember what God has done for us, our immediate response should be giving thanks. The Eucharist symbolizes everything God has given us. In the Eucharist we remember all that God has done for us; through, with, and in Jesus Christ.

We set this time of year apart as a time of thanksgiving for all that God has given us; for His blessing, His provision, and in fact for our very lives. Let us remember this as we celebrate Eucharist and contemplate our stewardship of the time, treasure, and talent God has so graciously given us.

*Deacon Joe*

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## Free Flu Shot



**November 2 - 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
 provided by Chester County Health Department  
**Barkley Elementary School**  
**320 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Phoenixville**

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## Daylight Savings Time Ends



**Turn all clocks BACK 1 hour before retiring on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## Day by Day



The November-December-January issue of Day by Day [Forward] is available in the Narthex Tract Rack

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## Phoenixville Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 22, 2017 – 7:30 pm  
St. Ann's Chapel  
Main Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Rabbi Jeff Sultar  
Offering: PACA Emergency Fund

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## Milestone Celebrations



God's beloved community, St. Peter's, wants to celebrate milestones such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other important family events. Please send me the birth dates (and name) of each family member as well as anniversary dates of important family events. I will enter the dates into the on-line directory [REALM]. Thank you for helping us with this initiative.

Also, if you have not already done so, you can set up your own REALM account by connecting to <https://onrealm.org/StPeterEpiscopal>. For those signing in again the link will be: <https://onrealm.org/StPeterEpiscopal/SignIn?ReturnUrl=%2FStPeterEpiscopal%2FSignIn>

*Carolyn Soles* [csoles@hotmail.com](mailto:csoles@hotmail.com); 610-639-4122

## Disaster Relief Special Collection



St. Peter's collected \$2747 for Episcopal Relief & Development for the September hurricane relief efforts.

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## A Stewardship Moment

Frank Rothenberger



I am sure I am not alone when I say that I get so much more back from St. Peter's than what I put into St. Peter's in Time, Talent, and Treasure. Much like the plants we are all growing to symbolize our Stewardship Campaign this year, I see our work now as planting good seeds that we will nurture over the years for everyone to experience for decades to come. Preserving the place and experience of St. Peter's for future generations is why Stewardship is important to me.

The preliminary budget for 2018 has been drafted and there are many things that will be accomplished with the budget. We are continuing to expand on tremendous growth St. Peter's has experienced over the past few years; we are adding a new family ministry position, expanding our mission, and growing our property budget to name a few things. You can already feel this growth as you spend time with the people at St. Peter's and walk around the different areas of the building. We have increased total expenses in the budget to \$335K, which is about a \$30K increase. In order to reach a balanced budget, this will require an increase in pledges from \$269K to \$300K, or about 10%. This can be accomplished by families increasing pledges from last year. This is a daunting goal but I believe is a goal that our parish can look forward to meeting.

Reflecting on this goal, a well-known children’s story came to mind. It is amazing what St. Peter’s is able to accomplish as such a small parish. We offer so much to our members; our children; our community; our guests; and we touch so many different people. This is certainly a large load to carry for a small group but it is worth the effort to carry. There are newer churches, larger churches, but we are the group that is tasked with this challenge and it is a tremendous opportunity. I am hopeful that everyone approaches this goal with the attitude...I think we can and when we reach the goal, we can all say together...I thought we could...and we will.

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### Who is Who?



**Carolyn Soles**

with grandchildren  
Jenevieve and Nolan Krummrich

Prior to moving to King of Prussia a year ago, Carolyn lived on a secluded two-acre property in Spring City for 18 years. Her move to King of Prussia one year ago brought her into the heart of her family. Her adult daughters live two homes from one another (that’s another story); She lives with her daughter, Allyson; her other daughter, Hillary, lives with her two children, Jenevieve and Nolan, in the home built by Carolyn’s father and where she grew up.

Carolyn has been retired for several years and had a variety of positions over the course of her working career. She spent 18 years in non-profit then moved into the corporate world. She concluded her full-time journey as a Professional Development Consultant, working for a variety of companies. Once retired, she volunteered at the Spring City Food Bank and

Spring City Library where she was hired as a part-time library assistant.

Besides family time and activities, she enjoys reading, gardening, going to movies and having adventures with friends.

Carolyn related that her family was not looking for a church home. However, when Koshy graciously agree to lead a memorial service for Hillary and Allyson’s father who had resided at St. Peter’s Place, we decided to attend a church service and have returned almost every week! They especially like the openness and diversity of the church community. They also enjoy the music, social outreach, and Koshy’s sermons.

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### Inspiration from the Cristosal Global School, San Salvador, El Salvador

Gary Russell Oct. 2017



The belief that every human being is equal in rights and dignity drives the learning at the Global School of Foundation Cristosal in El Salvador. Thirteen North Americans and ten Salvadorans, including members of our Central American Refugee Commission, Fr. Koshy Mathews, Rev. Anne Thatcher, Debra Green and I attended a week long human rights seminar in the capital city of San Salvador.

As part of our field work we visited a juvenile detention center (read: prison) where we interviewed young male offenders aged 15 -21, incarcerated for gang related crimes. Upon release they can expect to be rejected by their families and society at large. According to a young American working with them for the last five years on a book and art project telling their life stories, they have little chance of surviving beyond six months after rejoining society. If they want to “go straight” they will likely suffer the ultimate punishment at the hands of their

former gang partners. They must also face the “Iron Fist” policy of policing and enforcement that causes these men to be profiled by authorities. Having tattoos displaying their gang’s name (MS 18 or 18th Street”) or simply “dressing like they’re in a gang” will mark them as targets and many will likely suffer the fatal consequences of this policy. On another day we visited Eben Ezer Church which employs former adult gang members who cannot get jobs, are rejected by family and society and suffer from a similar lack of acceptance and profiling. They can expect a similar fate.

Through these field experiences and the seminars given that week by Cristosal staff, a central concept of human interaction was embedded in my mind. That is, “WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME, SEE A PERSON FIRST”. The essential teaching is to recognize that every person we meet is just like us in so many ways, and we are stronger together, accompanying each other on our common journey through life’s challenges. When we are truly equal it allows us to see each other as a child of God, supporting each other with love and respect. This is commonly called “Walking in Solidarity”.

Much of what we see and learn in our work accompanying the marginalized people of Central America informs our work and life here in our home communities. In our daily work at our lunch and pantry programs here at St. Peter’s and a local homeless shelter, we come into contact with many different types of people who might be disabled, unemployed, under employed or suffering from mental illness, addiction, loneliness or marginalization. Many of these people suffer from our preconceived notions of how “they” are different from or even inferior to those of us with careers, secure homes and the blessings of privilege. When we get to know each other as equals, we are presented with an opportunity to share our common humanity and care for each other. My experience at Cristosal has been essential to forming this perspective and encouraging me to “SEE OTHERS AS PEOPLE FIRST”.

At a time in our history when 65 million people worldwide are refugees due to violence of war and crime, I am proud to be a supporter of Cristosal. Their victim protection and advocacy, community development and research programs are the next generation of work addressing the root causes of injustice. I pray this model can be replicated in many places and continue to advance the cause of human rights everywhere.

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### St. Peter’s Choirs



Advent and Christmas are quickly approaching and the choirs will be preparing special music for Advent Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Lessons and Carols. Please consider a short term commitment to join the choir for this special season in the Church Year. You’ll add a spiritual dimension to your holiday season! Please speak with Karen Greene for details.

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### A Prayer of Thanksgiving *BCP*

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in the season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## November Celebrations

### Birthdays



- [2] Phil Howse, Ryan Sutter, Logan Henry
- [4] Corey Young, Coleman Nagy
- [6] Cynthia Ciancaterino
- [9] James Hammaker, Jan Eddowes
- [11] Vincent Phillips
- [14] Courtney Logar, Rowan Carney
- [24] Kristen Craig
- [27] Greg Schiele
- [28] Joe Dietz
- [29] Retta Sparano, Julia Sharpe, Randall Hobbs
- [30] Megan Magee

### Anniversaries



- [2] Patrick and Jan Wier
- [3] Steve De Prado and Natalie Famous
- [12] Peter and Elizabeth Fifer
- [24] Don and Judi Hans

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## November Worship Participants

### *Greeters - 8:00 am*

- 5 Glenn Murray
- 12 James Dallas
- 19 One Service Only – Confirmation-10 am
- 26 Joan Grunwell

### *Lectors - 8:00 am*

- 5 Alexis Wilson; Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 12 Lisa Scott
- 19 One Service Only – Confirmation-10 am
- 26 Ron Gaugler

### *Greeters – 10:00 am*

- 5 Kim Thornton, Mike Logar
- 12 Vernet Spence-Brown, Pat Howse
- 19 Anne Atlee, Judi Hans
- 26 Marva Young, Cindy Giancaterino

### *Acolytes*

- 5 Vernet Spence-Brown  
Emma Martz, Mali Warren
- 12 James Hammaker  
Colin Parker M.J. Kiernan
- 19 Frank Rothenberger  
Isaac Nagy, Sean Magee
- 26 Ryan Sutter  
Phoebe Foerster, Trey Foerster

### *Lectors – 10:00 am*

- 5 Karen Martz, Ron Druckenmiller  
Mona Chylack *intercessions*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
- 12 Shelly Brennfleck, Phoebe Foerster  
Asha George-Guiser *intercessions*  
Richard Greene *chalicist*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 19 Leo Guen, Trevor Gordon Hall  
Marty Bloem *intercessions*  
Carol Russell *chalicist*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 26 Susan Mathews, Todd Jackson  
Michael Logar *intercessions*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*

### *Ushers*

- 5 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 12 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 19 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 26 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

**Financial Update – September 2017**  
from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- Income
  - Total open plate donations through September were \$15,088 and pledges were \$194,742 which were below budget by about \$8K.
    - Additional analysis was completed on individual pledges through the week of October 15, 2017. There were 39 pledges ahead of schedule by approximately \$11.6K and 40 pledges behind by approximately \$14.3K. The average shortfall of pledges behind schedule is about \$350. This is a mid-month estimate so there may be some timing discrepancies; however, there is an overall trend through the first 3 quarters of pledges falling behind.
  - Total operating income was \$235,197 after removal of pass-through income of \$41,096 and a one-time donation of \$5,000 towards the capital campaign. Total operating income is more than the budgeted amount of \$225K through September.
  - Total income was \$281,294 through September.
- Expense
  - Total operating expenses were \$221,870 after removal of pass-through expenses of \$47,983 and one-time expenses of \$43,340 covered by funds in the Capital Campaign account and Building Maintenance Savings account.
  - Operating expenses continue to be below budgeted expenses of \$227,334 and include some long-term building repairs and maintenance expensed in 2017.
    - Operating expenses through August were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$13,327.
  - Total expenses were \$313,192.
- Total expenses were not covered by total income resulting in a deficit of (\$31,898); however, these expenses included \$3,340 for the Capital Campaign and paid for with Capital Campaign funds and \$40,000 in building repairs that were paid from the Building Maintenance Savings account. Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 9/30/17):

- Checking: \$15,098
- Savings: \$9,067
- Certificates of Deposit: \$42,490
- Youth Group: \$1,137
- Pantry/Outreach: \$9,212
- Mission: \$1,639
- Building Maintenance: \$8,546
- Concert Series: \$3,904
- Capital Campaign: \$35,844
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$1,213
- Petty Cash: \$200
  - **Total Cash: \$128,350**

**Please carefully consider your giving for 2017 and try to come current on pledges so that St. Peter's can finish the year in a strong financial position. Thank you for your continued support.**