

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,

We are about to bid adieu to 2017 and welcome 2018. It is a good time to look back and thank God for all that we have been able to accomplish this past year. We thank God for all the new members who have joined our ranks and became active in our ministries. We also thank God for the continued growth of our outreach to the community both near and far. The Episcopal visit in November for confirmation and reception was one of the highlights of this past year. Recognizing the need for providing more organized faith formation opportunities for increasing number of young children in our church, in September 2017 we created a new position of the Director of Family Ministries and have appointed Michelle Engle to that position. Another major thing we were able to do was making some significant improvements to our physical building, adding a new bathroom and creating a new storage space.

In 2017, we experienced some transitions. The Rev. David Hyatt, after serving us as the Assisting Priest for a number of years, decided to retire from active duty. We thank God for him and for his faithful service to the church. We also thank God for the faithful service of the Rev. Dennis Coleman, who after serving us as a Deacon for three years moved on to a more challenging mission in Norristown. We also thank God for Lou Steffenhagen for the year he served us as Deacon-in-training. We wish him all the best as he will be ordained a Deacon in June.

As we move into a new year, we will see another transition. In the new vestry, we will miss Retta Sparano, who completed two full three-year consecutive terms, during which she served three years as the Accounting Warden and four years as the Senior Warden. As organized as she is and as unorganized as I am, she has been a great help for me, and a great leader for the vestry and the church. Though we will miss her wisdom and guidance in the vestry, she will continue to serve the church in other capacities, such as being the Dean's Warden until I finish my term as the Dean of the Valley Forge Deanery, and as the chair of worship committee.

I read Richard Rohr regularly for my meditation. Reflecting on this verse from Isaiah, *'The ancient ruins will be rebuilt, You will build on age-old foundations, You will be called "Breach-Mender, Restorer of ruined houses'*, he talked about the awesome task of Christians being breach menders. We who have just experienced another Christmas, birth of God Child, go back to our respective places of activities and life, like the shepherds and wise men of the first Christmas, with a new determination as God's agents of change and breach menders.

As a new year dawns on us, let us make some meaningful resolutions in the vein of what Isaiah was calling his ancient people: to be breach-menders and

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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

Office: 610-933-2195
Email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com
Web site: www.saintpeterschurch.net

What's Happening At St. Peter's January 2018

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restorers of ruins. Today, more than ever, the world is in need of God's people. Consider getting involved in some ministries or mission of the church, and commit ourselves to attend church more regularly and make a pledge to support the parish with time, talent and treasure.

May we, emboldened by the power of the Holy Spirit and energized by the hopeful message of the Gospel, go forward as the agents of change and transformation!

With much love and peace,

Koshy

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Deacon's Roundtable

Due to the absence of a second priest Fr. Koshy has asked me to assist in distributing the consecrated hosts to you the people of God. I confess to you that this is the highlight of my week.

Each week as I stand at the altar rail holding the Bread of Life, I look at our people as they come forward to receive our Lord in the Eucharist. As each person kneels or stands before me I take special notice of their hands...

The first person's hands are callused and obviously have seen many hours of hard work. The next person is a grade school child whose hands are small, smooth and tentative. As I move along, I see the outstretched hands of an elderly man twisted with arthritis and seasoned by age. Beside him an older woman whose hands are wrinkled and chapped yet seem so soft. Next a young man whose strong and steady hands are wrapped tenderly around an infant.

Person after person approaches the altar rail, each with their own history, their joys and hurts, problems and talents, yet each holding out their hands to cradle the Eucharist for a brief moment. As this scene develops, I am overwhelmed with the realization that these

people are indeed the body of Christ in all its humanness receiving the Body of Christ in all its divinity.

Ponder this – we each approach the altar as imperfect members of the Body of Christ and we each walk away perfected with the divine gift of Christ himself in the Eucharist.

I pray God's richest blessings for each of you in the New Year ahead.

Deacon Joe

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Music @ St. Peter's Concert Series Presents: Amici Strings Orchestra January 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.



Amici Strings will be performing:

Vivaldi

Concerto Grosso in D Minor, Op. 3, No. 11

Sibelius

Impromptu for String Orchestra

Parry

An English Suite

(Prelude, Minuet, Sarabande, Frolic)

Ireland

Minuet from A Downland Suite

Grieg Suite

Last Spring, Op. 34, No. 2

Norwegian, Op. 53, No. 1

Cow Call and Peasant Dance,

Op. 63, No. 2a and 2b

Gardel

Por una Cabeza

Anderson

Jazz Legato and Jazz Pizzicato

Annual Reports for 2017



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 11, 2018 [ONE Service ONLY at 10:00 a.m.] **Absolute DEADLINE for reports to be received in the parish office is January 28th.**

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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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News from St. Peter's Pantry

Parishioner donations have been plentiful in response to our requests for thanksgiving related foods and we were able to offer a full thanksgiving style meal to every family attending our Thanksgiving pantries this year. Our pantries were held Saturday, November 18 and Monday November, 20 when we distributed

a full holiday meal including a frozen turkey, or Encore frozen meal and all the trimmings to 160 families. We deeply appreciate your generosity which made these distributions possible.

Turkeys were provided courtesy of the Chester County Food Bank, and a \$500.00 donation of coffee and Encore frozen turkey dinners was delivered by the Phoenixville Police Association to supplement the parish donations.

Beyond our work at the Pantry, we also accepted 15 already-cooked thanksgiving meals, complete with a cooked turkey and the all the trimmings ready-to-eat from Acme Markets, Phoenixville, and delivered them to Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) on Wednesday November 23. PACS was able to call their families in advance to come in to pick them up in time for their Thanksgiving meal.

The Christmas pantry was held on Saturday, December 16 and Monday, December, 18 serving 120 families. This picture is of the generous donations made by St. Peter's parishioners for the Christmas Pantry.



A great big THANK YOU to all our PARISHIONERS who continue to support the pantry with donations of money and food, and also to all the VOLUNTEERS who make those donations work for the benefit of people in our community.

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What is a Vestry?

There are nine (9) members on St. Peter's Vestry, serving a three (3) year term, with the option of running for reelection for a second term. Each year at the annual meeting in February, at least three (3) parishioners are nominated to fill the vacancy of the retiring members. If a vestry member does not complete their 3-year term, the balance of that term will also be filled at the time of the annual meeting.

Parishioners who are interested in being nominated should be confirmed Episcopalians, members of St. Peter's and speak to Father Koshy or one of the wardens.

The Vestry meets with Father Koshy the 4th Thursday of each month for two (2) hours to conduct the business of the parish. We open our meeting with check-in, prayer, and approval of previous meeting minutes. The meeting continues with Rector's report and discussion on a variety of agenda topics. We work hard together, have fun together and are there to represent the congregation.

Each vestry member serves as a liaison to one of the ministry committees. Serving on the vestry is a way to share your time and talent and become involved in support of the mission and vision of St. Peter's Church.

All parishioners are welcome to attend vestry meetings. Please know you are welcome to join us and see how we work together with Father Koshy for the parish. If you would like further information on what it means to be a vestry member, please speak to any of the current members or Father Koshy.

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Candidate: Karen Martz

I have had an active affiliation with the Episcopal Church since birth. I attended Church of the Mediator in Allentown, PA throughout my childhood where I served as an acolyte and

crucifer and singing in the Junior Choir all through school. I graduated from Susquehanna University with a degree in Music Education and moved to Bel Air, MD where I attended St. Mary's Episcopal Church. When I relocated to Phoenixville with my husband Brian, we searched for a church and came across St. Peter's. This has been our church home since 2002. Both of our children were baptized here. The girls both sing in the choir and serve as lectors. Our oldest daughter serves as a acolyte. I am member of the Music Committee and served on the search committee to find Karen Greene, our current Organist/Choirmaster. I am in charge of the Music @ St. Peter's Music Concert Series which provides free concerts to the community. I am a firm believer that it takes a village to raise a child and thrilled that St. Peter's church family is providing that village for my children.

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January Birthdays



- [3] Sue Meadows
- [4] Todd Jackson
- [5] Karen Greene
- [8] Lana Brock, Noah Hatton
- [9] Ava Feather
- [10] Joseph Vargo
- [11] D. J. Brock, M.J. Kiernan
- [16] John Andrews, Edwin Hartman
- [17] Finn Murray
- [20] Daniel Hammaker, Claire Prato
- [22] Michael Mitten
- [23] Brandon Rennie
- [24] Aalesandra Kiernan
- [27] Judi Hans
- [29] Kacie Vargo, Stephanie Mitten,
- [31] James Sim

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January Worship Service Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 7 Janes Dallas
- 14 Lisa Scott
- 21 Joan Grunwell
- 28 Glenn Murray

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 7 Alexis Wilson
Lisa Scott *chaliceist*
- 14 Lisa Scott
- 21 Ron Gaugler
- 28 Anne Holbrook

Acolytes

- 7 James Hammaker
Isaac Nagy, M.J. Kiernan
- 14 Vernet Spence-Brown
Sean Magee, George Barker
- 21 Michael Logar
Colin Parker, Mali Warren
- 28 Frank Rothenberger
Trey Foerster, Phoebe Foerster

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 7 Anne Andrews, Judi Hans
- 14 Vernet Spence-Brown, Pat Howse
- 21 Cindy Giancaterino, Lady Rennie
- 28 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 7 Shelly Brennfleck, Trevor Gordon Hall
Leo Guen *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
Ron Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
- 14 David Brennfleck, Kent Wenger
Beverly Burkhardt *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
- 21 Phoebe Foerster, Todd Jackson
Mona Chylack *intercessor*
Richard Greene *chaliceist*
Vincent Giancaterino *chaliceist*
- 28 Jolie Chylack, Curt Quaintance
Mali Warren *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
Carol Russell *chaliceist*

Ushers

- 7 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 14 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 21 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 28 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

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Financial Update – November, 2017

Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- **Income**

- Total open plate donations through October were \$18,807 and pledges were \$236,795 which were below budget by about \$10.6K.
- Total operating income was \$311,136 after removal of pass-through income of \$56,987 and a one-time donation of \$5,000 towards the capital campaign. This also includes Clinic rental income of \$17,505 that is being deposited into the Maintenance Savings Account.
- Total income was \$368,123 through November.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$279,117 after removal of pass-through expenses of \$55,897 and one-time expenses of \$53,000 covered by funds in the Capital Campaign account and Building Maintenance Savings account.
- Operating expenses continue to be below budgeted expenses of \$274,137 and include some long-term building repairs and maintenance expensed in 2017.
 - Operating expenses through November were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$32,019 or \$14,514 excluding the rental income from the Clinic that went directly towards the Maintenance Savings Account or other capital expenses.
- Total expenses were \$383,014.

- Total expenses were not covered by total income resulting in a deficit of (\$14,891); however, these expenses included \$5,000 for the Capital Campaign and paid for with Capital Campaign funds and \$48,000 in building repairs that were paid from the Building Maintenance Savings account.

Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 11/30/17):

- Checking: \$11,837
- Savings: \$9,067
- Certificates of Deposit: \$42,490
- Youth Group: \$1,137
- Pantry/Outreach: \$18,970
- Mission: \$1,639
- Building Maintenance: \$3,729
- Concert Series: \$3,590
- Capital Campaign: \$34,197
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$1,213
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$128,069**

**Thank you all for your continued and generous support of St. Peter's
and please bring pledges current prior to the end of the year.**