

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,

Our Bishop is often heard saying, "What we're about is to know Christ and to make Christ known in the world." It is a powerful mission statement. This was discussed at a recent meeting of the Global Mission Commission as we made preparations to hold a global mission conference in the spring. The theme of the conference is "Missions: Partnership and Pilgrimage." The world is both near and far, and Christ is already there ahead of us. Our job is to know Christ in the brokenness and suffering of the people, whether in our immediate neighborhood or in the faraway places. We're called to walk in solidarity with the crucified people of the world and thus make known and acknowledge their plight, as God's own.

Saint Peter's is doing this mission both in our neighborhood through our pantry feeding ministry, clinic, and other organizations we support, and in El Salvador through our support of Cristosal and in our engagement in the Global School. This Christmas I received a unique gift, a miniature sculpture of homeless Jesus with a card saying the verse from Matthew 25, "When I was a stranger you took me in" It sits on my desk now reminding me about my mission, our church's mission. To know Christ in the stranger, in the homeless, hungry, naked, sick, harassed and bullied, the last, the lost and the least.

On January 25th, we marked the 12th year of our partnership in ministry and mission in Phoenixville. I thank God for you, the people of St. Peter's, for taking me in as your priest, going against the conventional practice of hiring priests who resemble the culture and color of the congregations. It was a courageous step on your part to follow through on what God helped you discern. I pray that God will lead you again to discern God's choice for you when it is time.

In serving Christ in our community and in the world, we reach forward into a greater life, beyond ourselves, beyond our narrow interests, concerns, and life into a greater life in Christ. As a church, we are called to serve in this world. And this means we are expected to engage in the important social, economic and political issues of the day being reconcilers and healers of the huge social chasms that separate people from God's holy and life-giving love. Skip Windsor, the preacher at my installation service 12 years, said, "In the social political debates, both internationally and nationally, both ecclesiastical and secular, we are called as Christians to remember who we are and whose we are. We are to follow Christ wherever the way may take us; and the way is never easy."

In another two weeks, when we will gather once again for the annual meeting as part of our worship service in the church at 10 AM, we thank God and celebrate our victories and we will envision and dream what God has in store for us in God's future for us. Whatever may be God's challenge for us let us pledge ourselves to abide in God's compassionate presence in the world.

In peace, *Koshy*

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*
Michele Engle, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
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

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

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Deacon's Roundtable

February 14! This year it celebrates two “holidays”—Valentine Day and Ash Wednesday. What a coincidence that a heart of love falls on a day of ashes and repentance. We celebrate the beginning of Lent with a heart of Love.

During Lent we are encouraged to take up the traditional practices of fasting, praying and giving alms. On this particular day we are not marked with a heart but with the sign of the cross in ashes from last year's palms to remind us that we are but dust and that we are to repent. Here is where the heart comes in. In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 6, we read these words: “Your Father who sees....” It tells us that God is always looking on us in LOVE, therefore, we don't have to work hard to gain God's attention. In fact, our Lenten observances are there to help us to begin looking at God; in essence giving him our hearts.

Turn to the first page of the book of Genesis and you will read how God saw God's creation and announced it to be “very good.” God was pleased, especially when God looked upon men and women—the crown of God's creation.

Even when sin darkened his masterpiece, God never stopped seeing us with his eyes of love. In fact, he intensified his gaze, giving us the Law, the prophets, and ultimately, Jesus himself. Even on the cross, Jesus was seeing us, looking on us with mercy, love and forgiveness. This is the good news of Lent: God sees us. God knows us. God is committed to us. God loves us. No amount of work on our part can increase God's love for us. It is already complete and perfect.

By all means, do fast and pray and give alms! Just remember that these practices are not meant to get God's attention. They are meant to help us fix our eyes on the Father who sees all; the Father who sees all promises to reward us with his love.

I wish you all a Holy and Blessed Lent.

Deacon Joe

DAY by DAY

The February/March/April issue of DAY by DAY [Forward] may be found in the Narthex Tract Rack.

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February 11 - One Service Only ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Please plan to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 11. There will be one service that day at 10:00 AM. Fr. Koshy will deliver his Rector's report from the pulpit and other significant reports will be given verbally during the service. The vestry will be available for questions during coffee hour which follows the meeting.

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February 14 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Imposition of Ashes, Eucharist
12 Noon Imposition of Ashes, Eucharist
7:30 p.m. Imposition of Ashes, Eucharist

February 16 - March 23

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross



Designed for devotional purposes, the Stations depict incidents in the last journey of Christ from Pilate's house to His entombment. They are commonly arranged around the walls of a church and, during Lent and Passiontide, we visit the Stations to recite prayers and meditate on each. As the early pilgrims in Jerusalem

followed the traditional route from Pilate's house to Calvary, stations were reproduced for similar devotion at home. The 14 Stations are:

1. Christ is condemned to death
2. Christ receives the cross
3. He falls for the first time
4. He meets His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross
6. Christ's face is wiped by a woman
7. His second fall
8. He meets women of Jerusalem
9. His third fall
10. He is stripped of His garments
11. He is nailed to the cross
12. Christ dies on the cross
13. His body is taken down from the cross
14. His body is laid in the tomb

(The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

At St. Peter's we observe the Stations every Friday during Lent at 7PM and on Good Friday at 1:30 PM. The observance of Stations can serve as a point of encounter with God. The danger is that it can be dulled by repetition. However, one of the ways we can revitalize liturgy is through anticipation and expectancy that we are about to have an encounter with God. I hope more of us will make use of the observance of the Stations during this Lent as a discipline to strengthen our relationship to God.

Fr. Koshy

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You are invited.....

....to attend vestry meetings. Monthly vestry meetings are open to all parishioners to come and watch and listen to those conducting the business of the church. Vestry meetings are generally held on the 4th Thursday of each month, but are sometimes changed due to holidays and special scheduling challenges. February's meeting will be held on the 15th at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Margaret's hall. Times and

dates are always on the monthly calendar and also in the weekly email blast.



Vestry minutes will also be posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Smith fellowship room. In addition, if you have any questions concerning church operations, talk to a vestry person. Their names and email addresses are on the back of the Sunday bulletins. Names and vestry terms are printed on the front page of the *NET* and are found on the web page. The vestry welcomes all questions and comments. Please feel free to talk with us.

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Stewardship Message: Sowing the Seed



In mid-October, Julia Sharpe, a member of St. Peter's Church, spoke to the congregation about her personal thoughts on stewardship as well as to comment upon the growth of this Church in recent years and the many contributions it has made to the surrounding community. Julia mentioned that the seed sowing theme used this year in our stewardship campaign was relevant to her; importantly, I need to attribute that comment to the fact that she is the amazing artist who creates the most beautiful gardens which surround the church in the warm months of the year.

Julia suggested that the growth transformation experienced at St. Peter's Church results from the leadership of Father Koshy as well as the willingness of many congregational members to volunteer to do all the work required to operate, among other things, a food pantry and to help staff the nearby Code Blue Shelter to assist our neighbors in need..

While preparing her comments, Julia told us she researched the meaning of the word stewardship and found that the person, whether pursuing good ethics in employment or pursuing stewardship practices in church, needs to assume **ownership; accountability; and finally responsibility** for the position or project. When doing these things well one will be rewarded with **wealth**.

Concluding, Julia said, “The Bible shows us in the parables of the Kingdom that faithful stewards who do the master’s will with the master’s resources can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life, but fully in the next. So everyone who does the “good” to be a servant of our Lord will reap the benefits of his rewards in heaven.”

Mona Chylack, Stewardship Committee

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Cristosal Mission



The Mission Committee continues to meet monthly to discuss ways of staying aligned with and supportive of Cristosal’s tremendous work in improving social justice and life conditions in El Salvador and Central America.

There will be another Dollar A Day Campaign during the Lenten season. So, from the first Sunday in Lent through the day before Easter (Feb. 18th to March 29th), we will ask you to consider giving one dollar a day towards those in 3rd world countries who live on just 2 dollars a day. You can reflect on what that may mean for you. – one less cup of coffee at Starbucks....or one less small snack bought per day? Then, your donation will be collected in your Cristosal offering envelope on the Sunday after Easter. Your kind donation will go directly towards the great works of

Cristosal and will surely be appreciated and put to valuable use.

Also, please save the date for April 28th when St. Peter’s will host a community fundraising event at the home of Mike and Erica Logar with Noah Bullock as the honorary guest and speaker. This will surely be a fun and impactful event!

There are also some seminars offered through Cristosal’s Global School this Fall with dates TBD, and the missions committee is interested in sending a few members of St Peters to join others in the US to participate. These seminars are focused on topics such as social justice issues, forced displacement, the refugee crisis and ways to mitigate the issues. If interested in participating in a Fall seminar or would like to learn more, please speak with Cindy Hammaker or Gary Russell. You can also learn more about Cristosal by going to their website at www.Cristosal.org

Thank you for your continued support of the vital outreach missions of St Peters!

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Who’s New? Who’s Who? Meet Lynn Boukalik



With a Masters in Library Science, Lynn worked at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH focusing in the computing area. As a Knowledge Manager, Lynn worked with a wide variety of teams to research, create, organize, and share information on the web and across teams at NASA. Lynn retired after 30

years of constant learning and working with creative and energetic people.

Lynn lived in the greater Cleveland, Ohio area for over 48 years. She and her husband, Bill were married for 47 years. Lynn and Bill raised three children; William and his family who live in Los Angeles, CA, Brian and his family who live in Northville, MI and James and his family who live in Phoenixville.

After a long and debilitating illness, Bill passed away in 2016 so Lynn decided to move closer to her son James. James and his wife, Melissa have three lovely girls who keep her involved in their very busy lives. New to the area, Lynn was looking for an Episcopal church and was drawn to St. Peter's immediately. It seems that the warm welcome that she received, as well as the dedicated people who work hard to support several worthy missions was just what she needed to help her transition to her new home. Lynn has been exploring the Phoenixville area and has already joined several cultural institutions. Lynn really enjoys walking and has found many wonderful trails.

If you have not already met Lynn, please take a minute to introduce yourself! Lynn is looking forward to meeting new people and supporting the mission of St. Peter's.

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Vestry Candidates

Shelly Brennfleck

I have been a member of Saint Peter's since 2012, along with my husband Dave and children William (12) and Ella (9). Having been raised in the Roman Catholic Church, we had been searching for a spiritual community that better matched our values and felt like a spiritual home. After visiting several local churches, Saint Peter's was recommended to us.

We immediately felt welcomed and we connected to the open and inclusive mission of

the church and have been active members ever since our first visit. I feel a spiritual fulfillment as a member of the Saint Peter's community that I have not previously experienced.

For the past year, I have served as Clerk of the Vestry and in this role have become more connected to the mission and values of the church. I am interested in running for Vestry to have a more active role in the future of this wonderful community. I am also a member of Altar Guild and Discernment Committee, a Godly Play Door Person and a Lector. Dave and the kids are also actively involved in many different ministries but we all feel that we get much more than we give when it comes to Saint Peter's.

Jan Wier

I have been a member of St. Peter's since 1988 and raised both of our son's, Matt and Ryan, baptism through confirmation, at our wonderful church. I've held many positions at St. Peter's over the years, but the largest portion of my work has been with children's ministries. I'm currently Godly Play coordinator, and have held that position for the past five years. In the nineties, I served two consecutive three year terms on vestry, and have just wrapped up a three year term. I strongly believe in service within the church so, that the church supports service in the community and the world. Outside of church, I work as an artist. I'm a long term volunteer at the SPCA in West Chester, and occasionally volunteer at the Code Blue Shelter. I have been married for 32 years to my husband, Patrick, and reside in East Vincent Township.

Henry Young

I have attended St. Peter's for almost 12 years and during that time I have served on a number of committees. Currently I serve on the El Salvador Mission Committee and assist Father Koshy with the issues relating to the Clinic. I enjoy my committee work, not least because of the considerate, spirited parishioners I work with and from whom I learn a great deal about faith and service. This will be my second time running for Vestry at what I anticipate will be a

very interesting time for St. Peter's. I hope my prior committee experience will be beneficial to the Church and I look forward to assisting Father Koshy in whatever way I can.

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Worship Service Participants February ~ 2018

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 4 James Dallas
- 11 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 18 Joan Grunwell
- 25 Glenn Murray

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 4 Lisa Scott *lectr ad chalicist*
- 11 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 18 Anne Holbrook
- 25 Alexis Wilson

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 4 Marva Young, Anne Atlee
- 11 Lisa Scott, Mike Logar
- 14 7:30 Judi Hans
- 18 Vernet Spence-Brown, Pat Howse
- 25 Anne Atlee, Kim Thornton

Ushers

- 4 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 11 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 18 Curt, Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 25 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

Acolytes

- 4 Michael Logar
Colin Parker, M.J. Kiernan
- 11 Katie Parker
Isaac Nagy, Sydney Alling
- 14 7:30 Frank Rothenberger
Emma Martz, Vernet Spence-Brown
- 18 Ryan Sutter
Trey Foerster, Phoebe Foerster
- 25 Greg Perles
Mali Warren, Sean Magee

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 4 To Be Announced - Family Service
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 11 Jan Wier, Susan Mathews
Karen Martz *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
Richard Greene *chalicist*
- 14 7:30 Retta Sparano, Sarah Ohanesian
Carol Russell *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 18 Vernet Spence-Brown, Mali Warren
Marty Bloem *intercessor*
Richard Greene *chalicist*
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
- 25 Leo Guen, Sr. Linda-Susan Beard
David Brennfleck *intercessor*
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
Carol Russell *chalicist*

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February Celebrations



[26] Richard and Karen Greene



- [2] Ron Druckenmiller
- [3] Jake Vargo
- [4] Brittany Rennie
- [5] Owen Szerenyi
- [6] Trey Warkala
- [7] Naomi Grunwell, Jonie Coleman
- [9] Lisa Brock, Mona Chylack
- [12] Mariel Weiss
- [14] Caitlin Rothenberger
- [16] David Hyatt
- [17] Bill Sullens
- [18] Jan Wier, Kim Thornton, Scarlett Heist
- [19] Ryan Wier, Michael Paster,
Benjamin Woolston
- [20] Mike Logar
- [22] Eric Quaintance, George Barker
- [27] Gabriel Kostelny, Henry Cassidy
- [28] Julia Kiernan

Financial Update – December, 2017

Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

Income

Total open plate donations through December were \$24,434 and pledges were \$261,749 which were below budget by about \$4.2K.

Total operating income was \$336,317 after removal of pass-through income of \$81,269 and one-time donation of \$5K to the Capital Campaign. Operating income includes Clinic rental income of \$19,096 that is being deposited directly into the Maintenance Savings Account.

Total income was \$422,586 through December.

Expense

Total operating expenses were \$310,588 after removal of pass-through expenses of \$68,968 and one-time expenses of \$53,000 covered by funds in the Capital Campaign account and Building Maintenance Savings account.

The Bank completed a renovation project in 2017 that included putting an ADA bathroom next to the parish office. The total cost of the project was \$55,000 and of this amount, \$48,000 was paid with funds from the Maintenance Savings Fund and \$7,000 was paid with cash from the operating account.

Operating expenses were within \$156 of budgeted expenses and include some long-term building repairs and maintenance expensed in 2017.

Operating expenses in 2017 were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$25,729 or \$6,633 excluding the rental income from the Clinic that went directly towards the Maintenance Savings Account or other capital expenses.

Total expenses were \$432,556.

Total expenses were not covered by total income resulting in a deficit of (\$9,970); 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 12/31/17):

Checking: \$18,482

Savings: \$9,067

Certificates of Deposit: \$42,490

Youth Group: \$1,137

Pantry/Outreach: \$31,132

Mission: \$1,639

Building Maintenance: \$5,322

Concert Series: \$4,363

Capital Campaign: \$34,087

Ecumenical Meal Program: \$4,956

Petty Cash: \$200

Total Cash: \$152,875

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