

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,

I am writing this on the eve of my vacation for a month. By the time I come back, it will be fifth Sunday in Lent. This year I am going to miss journeying with you on our Lenten pilgrimage; instead, I'll with my family in India who are for the first time without their matriarch at the center holding things together. A week after we get there, we be with our extended family, friends and neighbors for a memorial service for my mom, giving thanks to God for her life and cherishing our wonderful memories of her, and celebrating a life well-lived. While we are in Kerala, we will also be working on securing a place to live part-time post retirement.

As I am not going to be here much of this Lent, let me offer a brief reflection on each of the collects of the first four Sundays of Lent.

First Sunday *Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus ...for ever. Amen*

The fact that we will be tempted is granted and assumed in this prayer. If Jesus is tempted, how much more are we tempted. Weak and frail as we are, living in a world abounding in occasions to be tempted, we acknowledge only God can save us. It is God's desire that we won't succumb to temptations of this world, and God is ever present to save us as we acknowledge our faith in God.

Second Sunday *O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, ...for ever and ever. Amen.*

On this second Sunday, we acknowledge that we have already succumbed to temptations and have gone off track from GPS (God's Positioning System). We are lost. And now we pray that God will help us repent like the prodigal son and recalibrate our ways back to God's embracing arms of love. God's word is our GPS. It says, "The word is near you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe." "This is the way walk in it."

Third Sunday *Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; throughfor ever. Amen.*

On this third Sunday, once again we totally acknowledge our total incapacity and inadequacy to save ourselves. I recall this quote by someone from the past "Man, frail as a newborn, cannot withstand this winter alone." We need each other; we need the church, the body of Christ. God helps us in our

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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*
Michele Engle, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Karen Greene, *Music Director*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*

Vestry

2019 Raymond Forester
Karen Martz
Henry Young
2020 Judi Hans
Vincent Giancaterino
Julia Sharpe
2021 Shelly Brennfleck
Frank Rothenberger
Jan Wier

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 March 2018

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community and through our community. Sometimes I wonder about the contradictions of our lives. We say ‘we trust in God’ and yet at the same time we need our assault weapons and our huge military to protect us. Do we really acknowledge our powerlessness? I wonder.

Fourth Sunday Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who.....for ever. Amen.

In this prayer, for a change, the language is not penitential. In the Church, this Sunday is known as Refresher Sunday. From the rigor of disciplines of Lent, we take a break and acknowledge the goodness of the true bread from heaven, who is Jesus Himself. By partaking on this bread, the body of Christ, we become the body of Christ. Jesus said, “*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*”

I pray that our Lenten journey this year will help us grow deeper in our faith, get closer to the heart of God, move more boldly into God’s future for us.

With love and prayers, *Koshy*

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Deacon’s Roundtable

A few weeks ago we read a lesson from Mark’s Gospel presenting to us Jesus who heals the sick. It referred particularly to Peter’s mother-in-law and then the people of Capernaum who came to the door to listen to Jesus feed their souls with his preaching and healing all who had illness of body, mind and spirit.

While meditating on this lesson in my daily devotional “Magnificat” there was a meditation by Karl Ratzinger which struck a note with me. He states, “...illness is a typically human condition in which we feel strongly that we are

not self-sufficient but need others. Illness is also always a trial that can even become long and difficult. When healing does not happen and suffering is prolonged, we can be as it were overwhelmed, isolated, and then our life is depressed and dehumanized. We should react with appropriate treatment—but the Word of God teaches us that there is a crucial basic attitude with which to face illness and it is that of faith in God, in his goodness. Jesus always repeats this to the people he heals: your faith has made you well (Mark 5:34, 36).”

We have two ways of accomplishing this here at St. Peter’s: through healing prayers the first Sunday of the month and through the visitation of Eucharistic Visitors on a periodic basis at your home.

As many can attest the time of anointing and prayer with your deacon can be very calming and rewarding and bring healing. Our Eucharistic Visitors bring the body and blood of Christ to those who are homebound which can be a form of healing in itself. Through these two methods we experience the unfailing love of God and become immersed in God’s love.

We all know people who were able to bear terrible suffering because God gave them profound serenity. Nonetheless, in sickness we all need human warmth: to comfort a sick person, what counts more than words is serene and sincere closeness.

The wonderful thing is you don’t have to wait for the first Sunday of the month for healing prayers. Just ask Deacon Joe or Fr. Koshy to pray with and anoint you anytime. You will be surprised how the burden is lifted through prayer. You can also contact Lisa Scott to have the Eucharist brought to your place of abode so you can be nourished with the body and blood of Christ. These are the keys to healing. We don’t personally bring healing and solace, we are God’s instruments and convey his healing and peace.

May God continue to bless you through this Lenten season.

Deacon Joe

Community Lenten Worship
Wednesday's - 7:30 pm



March 7 at Bethel Baptist Church
 412 Fairview Street, Phoenixville
 Rev. Eva Johnson of
 First United Methodist, preacher

Jesus: Resurrection and Life

March 14 at Centennial Lutheran Church
 1330 Hares Hill Road, Kimberton
 Rev. Nathan Coleman of
 Bethel Baptist, preacher

Jesus: Way, Truth and Life

March 21 at First Presbyterian Church
 145 Main Street, Phoenixville
 Rev. Dan McDowell of
 Grace Crossing Community Church, preacher

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A Dollar A Day In Lent



St Peter's energy towards mission outreach is going strong with the Dollar A Day Campaign from the first Sunday in Lent through Easter Sunday. Did you ever consider how missing one dollar a day would affect your life? Probably not too much. However, many around the world try to live on less than \$2 dollars a day. The mission outreach committee is asking you to consider setting aside \$1 dollar a day during the 50 days of Lent and placing your daily donation in a special envelope found in the church pew and Narthex. The contributions received the Sunday after Easter, April 8, will go directly toward the great works of Cristosal. Thank you for your consideration to participate in this meaningful and important Lenten devotion!

Also, there is an exciting event slated for Saturday, April 28th! - Noah Bullock, director of Cristosal, will be the guest speaker at the Logar's house for a social/fundraiser community event! This event is sure to be enjoyable with great food and spirits and will be very interesting also! So, we're hoping you can make it on the 28th, and please save the date!

The missions committee would also like to send some parishioners to Cristosal's Global School in El Salvador in the Fall of this year as Cristosal is offering some very impactful seminars during that time. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please contact Gary Russell or Cindy Hammaker. You can also visit Cristosal's website: www.cristosal.org

Thank you everyone for your support of the invaluable missions of St. Peter's!

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Music @ St. Peter's Presents

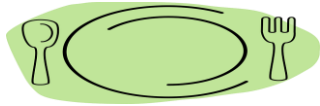


Kennett Symphony Children's Chorus
March 18, 2018 - 4:00 p.m.

Founded in 1990 by Karen L. Markey, the Kennett Symphony Children's Chorus is a community organization for boys and girls grades K through 12.

The Chorus is an educational outreach of the Kennett Symphony of Chester County and gives qualified singers an opportunity to perform high-caliber, age-appropriate repertoire that is culturally and musically diverse while nurturing vocal and musical development within a group setting. Numbering more than 80 singers, the choristers represent public, private, parochial and home schools in the Chester County, Lancaster County, Delaware Valley, Montgomery County, and the Northern Delaware Region.

Breakfast?



As you may know we serve a breakfast before each Pantry Saturdays, but what can people do on those Saturdays we don't have a pantry? For almost a year now a new member of our food program has been providing an all-organic breakfast to those in need in our community. Mr. Ajay Ravulapalli and his wife are the proprietors of a social enterprise company named Momma Friends of Earth. By selling goods and services in the open market, social enterprises reinvest the money they make back into their business or the local community. That reinvestment happens at St. Peter's Church.

Every other Saturday Ajay and his young daughters Maha and Maya get up early and have a beautiful breakfast ready by 8:30 AM from our kitchen. Every offering is organic: coffee, bananas, breakfast cakes, milk, juice and a wonderful egg soufflé. Attendance has been growing as the healthy offerings of all organic foods gains popularity among our guests. We give thanks for the service of Ajay and his family addressing the needs of the food insecure in our community.

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New Member Ministry



Have you ever wondered what the New Member Ministry does? Among other activities, our main goal is to continue to make Saint Peter's the church that people want to return to worship. The committee schedules one greeter for the 8:00 service and two greeters for the 10:00 service. Greeters identify and welcome visitors to our church and ask them to sign the guest book. Visitors are given a gift bag which contains small gifts and information about the church.

With information left in the guest book, visitors are followed up with a note or an email, thanking them for their visit and letting them know that we would be happy if they continued to worship with us. We track the visitors, during the monthly meeting, discussing whether they have returned and if they are in need of a shepherd to guide them through the assimilation process.

We meet at 8:30 a.m. one Saturday each month. Our meetings start with a devotional reading, a snack, and a check in. We discuss activities scheduled for the church and determine how we can assist. We are currently planning our yearly New Member Celebration on May 6 during the 10:00 service.

Please join us for our next meeting on March 17 in Saint Margaret's Hall at 8:30 a.m. (We will have a Saint Patrick's Day snack!) We have fun together while we conduct the business of our committee. Current members include Father Koshy, Anne Andrews, John Burkhardt, Georgette Druckenmiller, Jan Eddowes, Judi Hans, Julia Sharpe, and Vernet Spence-Brown. Please come!

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Parish Camp Out



The Environmental Committee and the Youth Group are offering a parish camp out at The Delaware Water Gap/Pocono Mountain KOA campground during the weekend of July 13-15th. Parishioners that would like to make reservations for that weekend should call 570-223-8000 or reserve online at www.PoconoKOA.com.

Deluxe cabins, teepees and rustic cabins are available if you reserve early. Tent sites can be reserved with electricity and water. Please note in the *Additional Notes* section that you are a visitor from Saint Peter's Church. There are

plenty of activities for children. Bikes and well behaved dogs are welcome!

Please contact David Brennfleck by email: davidbrennfleck@gmail.com or by phone: **484-868-2674** with any questions. There will be group hikes and activities planned for our group if you would like to participate.

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A Word From the Environmental Committee Ways to Reduce the Use of Plastic in Our Lives



During a recent “Better Together Beautification Walk” along the Schuylkill River Trail in Phoenixville, members of Saint Peters Environmental Ministry were reminded of America’s dependence regarding plastic. At least two thirds of the trash collected that day happened to be plastic drink bottles, plastic wrapping and plastic bags. National Geographic reported in July of 2017 that 91% of the world’s plastics are not being recycled and 8 million tons of this plastic is added to our oceans each year.

In a timely fashion, Amy Atlee, a new member of the Environmental Ministry at Saint Peters shared an article that was recently published in “*Spirituality and Health*” by her former student, Kathryn Drury Wagner. This article put forth eleven good ideas to help us reduce the use of plastic in our lives:

1. **Bulk up.** Go big, instead of smaller and multiple. Refill a shampoo bottle from an economy size one. Buy cereals and other dry goods from a bin, instead of purchasing a box, which has a plastic liner inside it.
2. **Brush up.** Swap plastic toothbrushes for bamboo versions, or use one with replaceable heads. Choose dish brushes and hairbrushes with wooden handles and ideally, bristles that can be composted.
3. **Suds sensibly.** Buying bar soap, loose, is more eco-friendly than packaged liquid soaps and body washes.
4. **BYOB.** It’s a little hard to get in the habit at first, but think ahead. Carry in your own reusable utensils, chopsticks or cloth napkins. Going for take-out? Bring a stainless-steel tiffin.

5. **Avoid frozen foods.** According to the Green Education Foundation, those frozen food packages look like cardboard but are actually coated with plastic.
6. **Squeak!** Give animal companions toys made of rope, cloth, or rubber.
7. **Invest in a garment bag.** If you use the dry cleaner a lot, get a garment bag and have them place clean clothing in there, rather than wrapping each item in a plastic sack.
8. **Clean green.** Look for cleaning products, such as detergents, sold in cardboard.
9. **Replace gradually.** As products reach the end of their life cycle, take the opportunity to seek out a more eco-friendly version. For example, Beth Terry, the author of *Plastic Free: How I Kicked the Plastic Habit and You Can Too*, wore out her plastic flip-flops, and then switched to natural rubber versions with hemp straps.
10. **Choose used.** When you must buy something made of plastic, try to get it secondhand, or buy the best quality you can afford so that it will last a long time.

Another quick and easy way to lessen our plastic impact on the environment is to **avoid using plastic straws when eating out.** Many of us haven’t considered how frequently we use and quickly discard this unnecessary tool. More than 500 million straws become part of the ocean’s plastic problem every day and therefore saying “no straw please” can truly make a difference.

Kathryn Wagner’s full article, which was referenced in this message, can be found online: <https://spiritualityhealth.com/articles/2018/02/19/10-ways-to-avoid-plastic>

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A Message from the Stewardship Committee



Early in the current year’s Stewardship campaign, St. Peter’s Church congregation was fortunate to hear a message from Ron Druckenmiller. His message, which follows, is so inspiring that I thought it would be nice to share it with you this month.

Benjamin Franklin said that there are only two certainties in life -- death and taxes. But I do not really agree with that. There are many other

certainties -- there is always day and night, the seasons change, in July the stores put out their Halloween merchandise, and in churches all across this country there is a fall stewardship campaign. And every year we hear about the three T's -- time, talent and treasure.

So here I am today giving the first of this year's "Stewardship Moment".

Many of you know that my career was that of an elementary school teacher. And it is from that perspective that I chose the theme for speaking this morning.

Years ago a gentleman named Robert Fulghum wrote a book titled "All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten". In that book he talks about things that we should do as adults that we learned as young children. Some of those things he lists in his book include: play fair, don't hit people, clean up your own mess. Be aware of wonder. Remember this little seed in the styrofoam cup: the roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. And live a balanced life -- learn some and drink some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work every day some. But number one on this list is SHARE EVERYTHING.

Share everything! Let's think about that. Isn't that what stewardship is all about -- sharing. As good stewards we do share our time, our talents, and our treasure -- with others and this church. We are all different in our own particular way and we all share in different ways.

But sharing is multi-faceted. If two people win the Nobel prize for chemistry they both share that prize. If you and I are in a restaurant and I say to you, "How about if we share a order of French fries". We both get to eat the fries. Or when the Eagles win a football game we all share in the joy of winning. (And when they win in the last second of the game sharing the joy is even more rewarding.) However, in this type of sharing there are equal recipients. Everyone gets something or things that did not belong to them at the outset.

Then there is personal sharing -- sharing something we possess. And that is where we are in our annual stewardship campaign. We are asked to share what we have with St. Peter's Church. And we do! Through all of our ministries we are sharing a lot of time, we share many, many talents, and we share our

treasure. But let's be honest. No matter what spin we put on it, the most important sharing we are asked to do is of our money. This place would have a very difficult time and a very different persona if we did not give our financial support. And that is where sharing becomes extremely personal. We are all called upon to share our wealth with this church.

And for all of us this sharing has its limits. Every year, as we fill out our pledge cards, we have to make a committed choice as to how much of what we possess we are willing to share. So how do we decide?

We have some fabulous examples of people deciding about sharing things. The woman in the temple gave her last copper coins as a sign of her belief in God and of her stewardship. The young boy shared his two loaves of bread and five fishes and in doing so his gift was blessed by Jesus and it grew into enough food to feed five thousand people.

One of the greatest examples we have today is something that happened and continues to happen right now. People from so many different circumstances have come together to help those who have been hit by devastating hurricanes and natural disasters. People giving of themselves to help people restore their lives. And again, for most of us, this sharing has limits.

But we need to put all this sharing in proper order. There is something that we share that has no limits and puts all other sharing into perspective. And that is the faith we all share in God, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit. All we have, everything we have is a gift from God. And it through our belief in God that all sharing falls into place.

Time and time again I have heard people who have never been inside this building before say "What a beautiful church!" And I agree wholeheartedly. But it isn't just the architecture or the stained glass windows that make this place beautiful. It is the people who worship here that make it a glorious place. It is you and me, sharing our works and our money, but more importantly in sharing faith, which has no limits placed upon it, that gives St. Peter's its heart and soul.

So as you go out this week, be aware of the wonder of God, of the beauty of God, and of the gifts of God and think about the greatest gift that God has shared with us -- His most precious son, Jesus Christ.

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March Worship Service Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 4 James Dallas
 11 Lisa Scott
 18 Joan Grunwell
 25 Glenn Murray

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 4 Ron Gaugler
 Lisa Scott *chalicist*
 11 Ron Gaugler
 18 Alexis Wilson
 25 Anne Holbrook

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 4 Marva Young, Cindy Giancaterino
 11 Anne Andrews, Lady Rennie
 18 Mike Logar, Vernet Spence-Brown
 25 Judi Hans
 29 7:30 Judi Hans
 30 2:00 Judi Hans
 31 7:30 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 4 TBA – Family Service
 Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
 Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
 11 Asha George-Guiser, Shelly Brennfleck
 Karen Martz *intercessor*
 Vincent Giancaterion *chalicist*
 Richard Greene *chalicist*
 18 Beverly Burkhardt, Marty Bloem
 Jolie Chylack *intercessor*
 Ron Druckemiller *chalicist*
 Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
 25 Mona Chylack, Georgette Druckenmiller
 Michael Logar *intercessor*
 Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
 Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
 29 7:30 Curt Quaintance, Carol Russell
 Ron Druckenmiller *intercessor*
 Richard Greene *chalicist*
 30 2:00 Sr. Linda-Susan Beard, Susan Mathews
 Vernet Spence-Brown *intercessor*
 Carol Russell *chalicist*
 31 7:30 Retta Sparano, Kent Wenger
 Marty Bloem, Asha George-Guiser
 Georgette Druckenmiller *intercessor*
 Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*

Acolytes

- 4 Frank Rothenberger,
 Isaac Nagy, M.J. Kiernan
 11 Vernet Spence-Brown
 Emma Martz, Colin Parker
 18 Michael Logar
 Phoebe Foerster, Trey Foerster
 25 Ryan Sutter
 Sydney Alling, Sean Magee
 29 7:30 Frank Rothenberger
 Katie Parker, Colin Parker
 30 2:00 Vernet Spence-Brown
 31 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
 Emma Martz, Sean Magee

Ushers

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

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March Celebrations

Happy Anniversary

- [17] Phil and Pat Howse
 [24] Andrew and Kristen Craig
 [26] James and Candace Sim

Happy Birthday

- [2] Dave Meadows
 [3] Nancy Giampietro
 [11] Seamus Sutter
 [15] Carrie Wanish
 [16] Sydney Alling
 [17] Rachel Schaefer, Malina Weiss
 [20] Frank Rothenberger
 [21] Benjamin Barker
 [23] Lauren Nagy
 [27] Brian Prato
 [28] Anne Andrews
 [29] Jack Andrews, Keegan Dorais
 [30] Wendy Vargo, Stephanie Sutter
 [31] Rosemarie O'Rourke

Financial Update – January 2018

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter’s through January 2018 is outlined below.

- **Income**
 Total open plate donations in January were \$1,609 which is close to expected budget of \$2,000 and pledges were \$25,836 which were higher than the expected budget of \$22,748. Overall, operating income was \$31,845 which is higher than the expected budget of \$25,906. Total income, including pass through income of \$3,166, was \$35,011.
- **Expense**
 Total operating expenses were \$25,090 which is slightly less than expected budget of \$25,903.
 Total expenses, including pass-through expenses of \$2,528, were \$27,618.
 Total operating expenses were sufficiently covered by operating income resulting in an operating surplus of \$6,755 and overall expenses were sufficiently covered by total income with a surplus of \$7,393. Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 1/31/18):	Checking: \$21,589	Savings: \$9,067
Certificates of Deposit: \$42,490	Youth Group: \$1,137	Pantry/Outreach: \$31,300
Building Maintenance: \$6,913	Mission: \$1,640	Concert Series: \$4,447
Capital Campaign: \$34,087	Ecumenical Meal Program: \$4,956	
Petty Cash: \$200		

Total Cash: \$157,826 Thank you all for your continued and generous support of St. Peter’s.

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Altar Flowers For Easter



You are invited to share in the joy of beautifying our church for the Easter Season. There is **NO** suggested contribution. Please, return this form to the parish office, or place it in the weekly offering plate in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" **by Sunday, March 25**. Please make checks payable to St. Peter’s Church. All names will be printed in the Easter bulletins.

Please PRINT clearly all names.

In memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Envelope Number: _____