

# 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,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

We began our Easter service with these words yesterday in our beautifully decorated church (thanks to Ron Druckenmiller) packed with members, their families and friends and visitors. Music was just out of this world (thanks to Karen Greene and the Choir). In the sermon, the expectant and energetic congregation was called to experience the power of resurrection in their own lives and to find their callings as individuals and as church to make resurrection happening at the tombs of our own lives and of our own world. I'm grateful to God for church and its empowered lay leadership for providing us a place for worship and serving as springboard for serving God in the world.

Bishop Barbara Harris is often quoted saying, "We are an Easter people living in a Good Friday world." In this season of Eastertide, we, after experiencing the high of Easter Service, find ourselves in the thick and thin of life of our workaday world. We still have to work to make a living, or to deal with our illnesses or to worry about our loved ones suffering from opioid addiction, or to send our kids to school worrying whether they will be safe from being bullied or gunned down, or to wake up each morning to hear or read one or other group of people belonging to "the other" category being scapegoated. It is reported that the stock market is up and economy is hot, yet there is no let down in the number of people coming to our pantry, or lunches or to the free clinic next door. This is our reality, the tombs of our Good Friday world.

As I said in my Easter sermon, resurrection is a daily event. As in the Holy Week, we must walk our *journey* knowing the fear of Good Friday to experience the power of the empty tomb. In our journey we will encounter our *passions* in churches, yes, but also in hospitals and office buildings, by bedsides and firesides, under the open sky and around kitchen tables. While we let these *shadows* trouble us, we must remember to stay close to Jesus, and *serve* the broken, the lost and those whose dignity has been trampled upon, who have come to see themselves as failures in the world, who have been forgotten. Let not the fear of truth being trodden on, darkness, and death of Good Friday make us discouraged and flee, rather let us stay and tarry at the foot of the cross to fully soak up the rays of grace from the middle of the cross, knowing that *dawn of victory* is just around the corner on Easter.

Friends, fellow Easter people, we have ahead of us many challenges to overcome, many boulders to move over, and tombs to open up. The Risen Christ is going ahead of us to the Galilees of our horizon. Risen Christ will keep pushing the envelope on us till all his people are restored to their full humanity to be part of the Reign of God in the here and now.

Blessings of Eastertide, *Fr. 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

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

## How to contact St. Peter's

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**Web site:** [www.saintpeterschurch.net](http://www.saintpeterschurch.net)

## What's Happening At St. Peter's April 2018

### Table of Contents

p. 1	From the Rector
p. 2	Deacon's Roundtable Meals for St. Mary's
p. 3	An Easter Message St. Peter's Unsung Hero
p. 4	Celebrate New Members April Celebrations Altar Flower Sponsorship
p. 5	Worship Service Participants
p. 6	Financial Update

## Deacon's Roundtable

The entire purpose of Lent has been to move us toward the Resurrection and Glory of Easter. If we were asked, "What is God like? We could answer by pointing to the universe and saying, "He is the one who created all of this." But we could also point to the graveyards of the world and quote St. Paul: He is the "God who raised the dead." (2 Cor. 1:9)

The universe, and we ourselves, do not exist by chance: we are creatures of a loving creator. Death is not the last word: by his creative power, God will raise the dead. However, this may not be good news for us. What kind of relationship do we have with the God who created us? We often turn away from God and violate his purposes. Thus, having fled God as creator, why should we expect to rejoice in him as raiser of the dead? Judgment would be all that was due us.

This reminds me of the story of the Irishman who died and found himself before the Divine Judge. He was fearful for he had not done much good in his life. Moreover, there was a large throng of people before him, each making an accounting of themselves.

Christ was thumbing through a thick book. Jesus said to the first person in line, "I was hungry and you gave me food. Good. Up to heaven you go." To another, Jesus said, "I was thirsty and you gave me drink. Good. Up to heaven with you." And to a third, "I was in prison and you visited me. Up to heaven you go." And so it went.

As each was told to go to heaven our friend examined his conscience and trembled even more fearfully. He had never given anyone food or drink let alone visit a sick person or one in prison. Finally he stood before Christ. As he watched Jesus search his book, the Irishman shook with fear. But Jesus looked up, smiled and said, "There's not much here, but you did do something: I was sad and you told me funny stories, I was depressed and you made me laugh, you cheered me up; so up to heaven with you."

So we have a third answer to the question, "What is God like?" He is the God who sent his Son to reconcile us to himself and who raised his Son as the beginning of the resurrection that we all will share. The resurrection is not only a future reality, but a present one. By raising Jesus from the dead, not at the end of time but in the middle of it, God has injected the power of the resurrection into the present age.

Resurrection is more than a future hope; it is a life changing reality – a power—for us to have now. To believe in the resurrection is to allow ourselves to be affected by it. In baptism we are joined to Jesus not only in his death but also in rising from the dead. To be Christian is to cooperate with his risen power at work in us. That is what we celebrate at Easter.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Deacon Joe*

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## Meals for St. Mary's Shelter

April 9-13



Volunteers are once again needed to prepare meals for St. Mary's Shelter. You do not have to prepare a meal "alone", make this a family event or ask a friend or relative to join you. If you are able to prepare a meal or have any questions please contact Jan Wier at [janwier@comast.net](mailto:janwier@comast.net).

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# An Easter Message

April 2018



As we bid farewell to the seemingly interminable winter season with its long, cold days and many challenging snow storms, it is wonderful to reflect upon the joys that spring offers. We can now think about new life as we head to the market to buy seeds for planting in good soil. We know that if we carefully nurture these seeds throughout the next months, we will be rewarded with beautiful flowers or delicious vegetables later in the season.

We can also recall the ideas that led all of us, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, into the present stewardship season. Last September Leo Guen wrote about taking time for gratitude; To appreciate the support we receive from God in our daily lives; For the joy of our families; To learn and to grow in knowledge; and For the events in our lives which reinforce our faith in God. We talked about allowing our faith in God to encourage us to know we will reap spiritual rewards. We determined that we would give our time, our talents and our treasure in gratitude, in faith, and in love.

The Stewardship Committee of St. Peter's Church sends blessings to you as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Christ this Easter Sunday. We especially send our deepest thanks for your support of our spiritual home of diversity, friendship, cooperation, nurturing, generosity, activity and leadership.

The Stewardship Committee

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# Saint Peter's Unsung Hero



Gary Russell is known to most members of Saint Peter's as an unassuming man who is friendly to all and willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. Most of us, however, are not aware of all he does within our church walls and outside of our walls. Gary spends countless hours attending meetings, working with many outreach ministries, and writing grants. He has been instrumental in bringing lunch to children in Phoenixville who would otherwise not have lunch during the summer. Most recently Gary was able to secure a grant of \$5,000.00 from the diocese for the pantry and lunch programs to serve our neighbors in need of food. This is in addition to many other successful grants made in past years from a variety of sources.

Gary also works countless hours in committees supporting the work of the Feasibility committee, Code Blue, mission committee especially the Cristosal Foundation to support its work in El Salvador. He has made the trip to El Salvador on our behalf many times. His contributions to Saint Peter's are too many to list in this brief article.

Gary will be honored with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award on Saturday, April 7 by Phoenixville Social Concerns Committee at the Annual MLK Jr. Community Prayer Breakfast (8AM to 10 AM) at the Phoenixville Area Middle School Cafeteria. The Rev. Jim Wallis of the Sojourner Magazine will be the keynote speaker. For Tickets (\$12.00), please ask Fr. Koshy.

The next time that you see Gary, please congratulate him and thank him for his work on our behalf. He is a true example of serving God by serving others.

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## Celebrate our New Members



On Sunday, May 6 at the 10:00 service, the New Member/Growth Ministry 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 Judi Hans at 610-327-4653 or [JudithHans@comcast.net](mailto:JudithHans@comcast.net). We hope that we can include all people who consider themselves to be new members of Saint Peter's.

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## April Birthdays



- [1] Andrew Quaintance
- [4] John Burkhardt, Brian Thornton
- [5] Anna Campbell
- [7] Karen Martz, Steve De Prado
- [8] Michael Logar
- [9] Katie Parker
- [11] Erin Hall
- [14] Koshy Mathews
- [15] Trey Foerster, Rebecca Martz
- [16] Adam Schaefer, Desiree Hatton
- [17] Amy Foerster
- [18] Erica Logar, Hannah Druckenmiller
- [20] Sean Mitten, Dennis Coleman
- [21] Mary Lynn Kessler, Blake Pongras
- [23] Emma Martz, Colin Holbrook
- [27] Joyce Paster, Brian Martz
- [29] Leo and Christian Wenger

## April Anniversaries



- [3] Raymond and Amy Foerster
- [14] Ron and Georgette Druckenmiller
- [21] Brian and Megan Prato
- [25] John and Beverly Burkhardt
- [30] Christopher and Megan Wilson

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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.

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](mailto:saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com)

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## Envelopes ??



**Do YOU have a box of 2018 Giving Envelopes? PLEASE** contact the parish office either by phone or email and a box will be prepared for you. **ALSO**, there are still several boxes that have not been picked up in the Narthex.

# Worship Service Participants in April

## Greeters - 8:00 am

- 1 James Dallas
- 8 Lisa Scott
- 15 Joan Grunwell
- 22 Glenn Murray
- 29 James Dallas

## Lectors - 8:00 am

- 1 Ron Gauger  
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 8 Anne Holbrook
- 15 Lisa Scott
- 22 Lisa Scott
- 29 Alexis Wilson

## Acolytes

- 1 Vernet Spence-Brown, Brandon Rennie,  
Isaac Nagy, Emma Martz,  
George Barker
- 8 Greg Perles  
Mali Warren, Sean Magee
- 15 Frank Rothenberger  
Trey Foerster, Phoebe Foerster
- 22 Sydney Alling  
George Barker, Isaac Nagy
- 29 Verney Spence-Brown  
Colin Parker, Katie Parker

## Greeters - 10:00 am

- 1 Anne Andrews, Judi Hans
- 8 Vernet Spence-Brown, Pat Howse
- 15 Cindy Giancaterino, Lady Rennie
- 22 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 29 Marva Young, Anne Atlee

## Lectors - 10:00 am

- 1 Beverly Burkhardt, Jan Wier  
Ron Druckenmiller *intercessor*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*  
Richard Greene *chalicist*
- 8 Chris Goulian, Todd Jackson  
Leo Guen *intercessor*  
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 15 Mali Warren, Kent Wenger  
Trevor Gordon Hall *intercessor*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
- 22 Sarah Ohanesian  
Georgette Druckenmiller  
Beverly Burkhardt *intercessor*  
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*  
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 29 Ron Druckenmiller, Karen Martz  
David Brennfleck *intercessor*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*

## Ushers

- 1 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 8 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 15 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 22 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
- 29 John Andrews, Jim Tackett

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**Financial Update – February, 2018**  
from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

• **Income**

- Total open plate donations through February were \$2,478 which were slightly below budget of \$4,000 and pledges were \$45,063 which were close to budget of \$45,496.
- Overall, operating income was \$53,657 which is in line with budget of \$53,537 and includes \$3K in rental income from the Clinic that is going directly into the maintenance savings fund.
- Total income, including pass through income of \$9,442, was \$63,099.

• **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$63,312 which were above expected budget of \$51,396.
  - The overage was primarily from higher than expected: Utilities expense of \$7.3K, Property expense of \$4.1K and Snow/Salt removal of \$2.2K.
- Total expenses, including pass-through expenses of \$7,129, were \$70,441.
  - An operating shortfall of \$9,655 was reported through February and this shortfall was sufficiently covered by cash on hand (St. Peter's had an operating surplus in 2017 that carried forward to 2018).
  - A total shortfall of \$7.3K was reported through February including all pass-through income and expenses.

Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request.

- Checking: \$4,410
- Savings: \$9,067
- Certificates of Deposit: \$42,490
- Youth Group: \$1,137
- Pantry/Outreach: \$34,467
- Mission: \$1,640
- Building Maintenance: \$8,506
- Concert Series: \$4,447
- Capital Campaign: \$34,099
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$4,639
- Petty Cash: \$200
  - **Total Cash: \$145,102**

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