

SAINT PETER'S NET

JESUS SAID TO PETER, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE."
MATTHEW 4:19

A Note From The Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

The happenings of this past weekend once again reminded us of the human capacity to be both good and evil. Friday evening, the national network news channels gearing up to broadcast from London on the big wedding, had to report on yet another mass school shooting in the US. Early Saturday morning, America woke up to witness the history making royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. These two scenes on the split screen portray the reality of life we live today. School shootings in the US have become a regular fare. Sadly, our people have become used to carnages like the one in Santa Fe, Texas and have accepted this as a fair price to pay for our right to carry and own guns. On the other side of the split screen, two young persons who couldn't be more different in their upbringing and background vowing their love to each other before God and before a diverse congregation. This is remarkable. Our presiding bishop, in his homily at the wedding, reflecting on the couple's love for each other, talked about God's love for humanity and called us to be a loving people across all our differences.

Our Good Friday world of hate is in desperate need for Easter love, which hopes, bears and endures all things. I think of our faith community at St. Peter's made up of Easter people of love. And we are called to be apostles of God's love, spreading the Good News of God in Christ in the world. Our diocesan motto is to know Christ and to make Christ known in the world. Knowing Christ is knowing God's love. And that's what we do in Church when we gather for worship. Making Christ known in the world is what we do when we are outside the church, in our places of work and activities. This is our call. Do we say, "Yes" to this call?

Each day I send out a word to reflect on. Yesterday's word was 'Yes'. The accompanying thought was this: "If you dare to say 'yes' to the prompting of God's Spirit in your heart, and if you follow where God seems to be calling you, you won't be spared trials and hardships along the way – but you will discover what it is to be alive, truly alive in Christ. And this life is for all eternity." Br. Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE. Our church is led by people who said "yes" to the promptings of God's Spirit in their hearts.

As our program year is coming to a close, I thank the members of our church who said yes to God's call to be teachers and volunteers in running our Family Ministry programs. I trust you all remember diaconal candidate Lou Steffenhagen, who was trained in our church by Deacon Joe a year ago. He is another one who said yes to God's call. He will be ordained a deacon at the Cathedral on June 9. On June 17th five of our youth and three chaperones will be on a summer mission trip to Appalachia for a week again heeding God's call. June 24th, our Patronal Day, we will thank and say goodbye to

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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 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

Office: 610-933-2195

Email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com

Web site: www.saintpeterschurch.net

What's Happening At St. Peter's

June 2018

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Karen Greene, our organist and choir director. We are grateful to Karen for her years of faithful service at St. Peter's, and we wish her God's accompanying presence as she journeys on.

Here at St. Peter's we are blessed to have so many of our members engaged in God's ministry. I thank God for each of you for saying "yes" to whatever it is that God is calling you to do and be. We are a beloved community of God. We are a community that invites and welcomes all people as they are in all their diversities.

May the Spirit of God continue to embolden us to say, "yes" to God as God is ever doing new things in our midst!

With much love and gratitude, *Koshy*

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Deacon's Roundtable

There is a knock at your room door. A voice calls out, "Let us bless the Lord." Your sleepy response is: "And give thanks to God." It is 6:45 AM. Thus starts your first full day of a forty hour retreat.

Recall how Elijah fled to a cave on Mount Horeb to hide from Jezebel after he had slain the prophets of Baal? (I Kings 19:1-3, 9-13) While in that cave, he sought a word from God. The mountain was assaulted by strong winds, fire, and an earthquake but God's voice was in none of them. After all of this there was silence. Out of the silence, Elijah heard the still small voice of God speaking within him. In Mark's Gospel (6:31), Jesus said to his friends, "Come by yourselves to an out-of-the-way place and rest a little."

We all need to find God. As illustrated, he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. He can only be found in the silence of the heart. St. Teresa of Calcutta, in her meditation Total

Surrender states: "God is the friend of silence. His language is silence. Be still and know that I am God. He requires us to be silent to discover him. In the silence of the heart, God speaks to us... We need to be alone with God in silence to be transformed. Silence gives us a new outlook on life. In it we are filled with the grace of God, which makes us do all things with joy."

Men and young men who are interested in the challenge of finding God in the silence of their hearts should prayerfully consider joining me at St. Joseph's in the Hills, Malvern July 20, 21 and 22. Help me to celebrate my 34th retreat and the beginning of a new relationship between you and God.

Come let the retreat master help you develop a better awareness of God's love for you. Let him reassure you that no matter how inadequate you feel you are, God is always there to forgive and heal you.

Come accept the guidance of the retreat master, experience the peace and solitude of the chapels, kneel in adoration and gratitude before the Blessed Sacrament in the Oratory. Come to be renewed and at peace with yourself. Jesus said, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest." (Matt. 11:28)

Deacon Joe

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St. Peter's Youth Group Car Wash Fund Raiser



June 9th 10:30am - 2:30pm
Petrucci's Ice cream
472 Nutt Road, Phoenixville, PA

The youth are raising money for their mission trip to Logan, WV with Appalachia Service Project and need our support. Please come out and get your car washed and donate to this important mission. Invite your friends!

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Strawberry Social Hour



For many years, Saint Peter's hosted an annual Strawberry Social in June. Please join us during fellowship hour on June 17 to revisit our past and hopefully continue the tradition into the future. All donations of strawberry food themed items are welcome. Please come!

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Youth to Travel to West Virginia



On June 17th five of our senior high youth (Jimmy Hammaker, Phoebe Foerester, Jeremy Wenger, Sydney Alling, and Michael Logar) and three leaders (Gary Russell, Mark Hammaker, and Michelle Engle) will be traveling to Logan, WV to spend a week participating in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) - an organization dedicated to repairing homes for low-income families throughout Central Appalachia. During their week in Logan, the team will be making repairs so homes are safer, warmer, and drier for families. They will get to know the residents of the home they are working on and build relationships with each other. More than just repairing homes, ASP strives to make the experience transformative for the team and the residents they serve. Please keep the team in prayer during the week.

News from Music Ministry



Our organist and music director, Karen Greene, will be resigning from her position effective June 24, 2018. Over the past three years, our music program under her leadership, has grown and been an integral part of our worship services.

Karen has shared her talent, personal love of the Episcopal faith, and her knowledge of the way music, both from the organ and with the choir voices, supports the changing liturgical seasons. She has challenged both the adult and treble choirs to enjoy the opportunity to sing together.

We will honor Karen's presence in our parish life on Sunday, June 24 after the late service. Please join us as we express our deep appreciation for her service and wish her God's accompanying presence as she journeys on.

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Update from the Mission Committee



On April 29 the Executive Director of Cristosal, Noah Bullock addressed St. Peter's parishioners and other guests at an intimate gathering in the home of Mike and Erica Logar. Noah captivated us with an update of their extraordinary work with 638 victims of violence and internal displacement, protecting them from further harm and accompanying them when they needed it most. At the same time, Cristosal continues community development efforts in ten communities creating conditions for peace.

We are proud to report that over \$25,000 was raised between the fundraiser at the Logars (\$22,000), our Lenten Dollar-A-Day campaign (\$1400+) and the disbursement of funds from the church line item budget (\$2,400).

Thank you to all those who continue to support this vital human rights work in Central America and to the Logars for opening their home and sponsoring a most enjoyable and enlightening event.

“Injustice Anywhere Is a Threat to Justice Everywhere”
Martin Luther King

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A Spring Message



Recently I saw the following comments while reading an article on Stewardship and thought they were worth sharing.

“Whether it’s a long walk on a sunny day or splashing through puddles during an unexpected shower, soak up the blessings of spring. Let the sights, sounds and smells of a new season bring something new to life in you.”

We wish you many blessings and much love though the remaining weeks of spring and as we head into the steamy, hot days of summer.

Mona Chylack for the Stewardship Committee

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Summer Worship Schedule



July 1 through September 2

8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

A Note Of Thanks



May 7, 2018

The Rev. Koshy Mathews
Mr. Gary Russell
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
121 Church St.
Phoenixville PA, 19460

Dear Gary and Koshy,

I am writing to you to thank you both, but also the mission team and parish community at St. Peter’s for your tireless dedication and advocacy for human rights and Cristosal. You took the lead in the Philadelphia area to spread your passion and build support for Cristosal and we now have a strong advocacy network developing, with St. Peter’s at the heart of it. Your leadership has been fundamental to building our grassroots support system. Thanks to your dedication, we can steadily rely on our Philadelphia partnerships when planning for the future. Your efforts also provide Cristosal a model for working with other parishes across the country.

I hope to return to earlier rather than later, to continue working with you on the development of our East Coast advocacy networks.

Again, thank you for your dedication and support.

Best,

Noah Bullock
Executive Director

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June Worship Service Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 3 Joan Grunwell
 10 Lisa Scott
 17 Glenn Murray
 24 James Dallas

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 3 Alexis Wilson; Ron Gaugler *chaliceist*
 10 Ron Gaugler
 17 Anne Holbrook
 24 Lisa Scott

Acolytes

- 3 Frank Rothenberger
 Katie Parker, Colin Parker
 10 Ryan Sutter
 Emma Martz, Grace Druckenmiller
 17 Ryan Sutter
 Isaac Nagy, Hannah Druckenmiller
 24 James Hammaker, Brandon Rennie
 Emma Martz, Mali Warren
 Leo/Christian Wenger

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 3 Judi Hans, Lady Rennie
 10 Marva Young, Kim Thornton
 17 Anne Atlee, Pat Howse
 24 Judi Hans, Anne Andrews

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 3 TBA - Family Service
 Carol Russell *chaliceist*
 Richard Greene *chaliceist*
 10 Shelly Brennfleck, Mali Warren
 Asha George-Guiser *intercessor*
 Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
 Vincent Giancaterino *chaliceist*
 17 Amy Atlee, Mona Chylack
 Todd Jackson *intercessor*
 Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
 Richard Greene *chaliceist*
 24 Catherine Wenger, Susan Mathews
 Karen Martz *intercessor*
 Carol Russell *chaliceist*
 Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceist*

Ushers

- 3 Clem Young, Sam Smith
 10 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
 17 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
 24 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

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June Birthdays



- [1] Ashley Hans, Stephanie Logar
 [2] Madeleine Williams
 [4] Deacon Williams
 [6] Anne Atlee, Clara De Prado
 [8] Dawn Koch
 [10] Eric Sharpe
 [12] Lynn Schaefer
 [13] Kent Wenger
 [14] June Henry
 [18] Cartier and Cayenne Bengochea,
 Ella Brennfleck
 [19] Michael Nagy
 [21] Tracy Parker
 [23] Brittany Alling, Robert Parker
 [25] Gary Russell
 [30] Walter Boone

June Anniversaries



- [2] Trevor and Erin Hall
 [5] Robert and Tracy Parker
 [7] Edwin and Karen Hartman
 [10] Mark and Cindy Hammaker
 [13] Michael and Lauren Nagy
 [19] Matthew and Annette Kiernan
 [21] Greg and Sharon Schiele
 [22] Dave and Sue Meadows

Financial Update – April 2018

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through April, 2018 is outlined below.

- **Income**
 - Total open plate donations through April were \$6,412 which were below budget of \$8,000 by \$1,588; however, this was again offset by \$98,796 in pledges through April that are higher than the budget of \$90,922
 - Total operating income was \$119,696 which is more than the expected income of \$109,449. This includes \$6,365 in Clinic rent that is deposited directly into the maintenance savings account and \$1,477 in 2017 pledges recognized in 2018 (not included in the pledge amount above).
 - Easter income was \$2,283 which is higher than the expected \$2,000 in the 2018 budget.
 - Total income, including pass through income of \$18,865, was \$138,612.
- **Expense**
 - Total operating expenses were \$116,131 which were above expected budget of \$102,791.
 - Operating expenses were impacted by higher than expected winter utility bills and repair/maintenance costs expensed in the first quarter of 2018.
 - Operating expenses through April included the \$2,400 donation to Cristosal that was presented to the organization during Noah Bullock's visit in April.
 - Total expenses, including pass-through expenses of \$16,515, were \$132,646.
 - St. Peter's reported a year-to-date operating surplus of \$3,565 through April which turned around after deficits reported in the first three months of the year.
 - St. Peter's reported a total surplus of \$5,965 through April, 2018.

Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 4/30/18):

- Checking: \$16,896
- Savings: \$9,067
- Certificates of Deposit: \$42,490
- Youth Group: \$143
- Pantry/Outreach: \$29,289
- Mission: \$1,640
- Building Maintenance: \$11,657
- Concert Series: \$4,796
- Capital Campaign: \$36,121
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$6,640
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$158,939**

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