

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 Friends and Members of St. Peter's,

The month of November is known for two important days: All Saints' Day and Thanksgiving Day. This year we also have an important mid-term election. For the church, this month marks the end of the church year as Advent begins on December 2nd

We're just about to celebrate Halloween. Children are all set and ready in their scary costumes to go house to house for 'trick or treating'. The origin of this tradition goes back to at least two millennia to the ancient Celts, who thought by wearing scary masks they could ward off evil spirits destroying their crops. For them, unlike us, it was a serious activity. Fear of the intervention of unknown and uncontrollable forces in their lives made them conscious and they set apart a day in the autumn for the scaring of evil spirits. Fear, a basic human emotion, still plagues humanity. At Halloween we make light of or fun of our own fears by wearing costumes that are scary.

Today our society is on the edge. Fear appears to be the underlying emotion that is driving people to this state of being. I am surprised a complex society like ours can be so easily succumbed to fear and become afraid of and suspicious of each other. America is armed to the teeth to ward off its fears, imagined or real. A slight provocation or even an appearance of provocation could set off individuals to do the unthinkable like Cesar Sayoc in Florida or Robert Bowers in Pittsburgh. Both these individuals are fearful of what may happen to them and their way of life if our society becomes more open to the 'others'. Religion, most especially church, has a role to play in diffusing our present situation. In the Bible we read every time when there was a change or something new was about to happen, God appeared in the form of an angel and spoke, "Fear not" or "Do not be afraid. I am with you" Armed with this assurance of divine presence, we are called to be the non-anxious presence in our society today.

On Sunday, November 4th, we will celebrate All Saints' Day when we remember, give God thanks for and celebrate the lives of all the saints, our loved ones who have gone to the next phase of life before us. It is a special day in the life of our parish. As in the past we will take a turn to light candles in memory of our loved ones while soft music is played on the organ. That same day at 4 PM, joining with other churches in Phoenixville we will gather in our church to read scriptures, listen to meditations and offer prayers to all those who have fallen to gun violence in our Commonwealth. Following that we will march in silence on Main Street stopping at churches on the way to the First United Methodist Church, where we will be placing t-shirts with the names of the fallen on the grounds of the church and write letters to our legislators on gun control in our society. Perhaps, for some, this may be seen as meddling in politics. As a church we should bear witness to our opposition to reliance on guns 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

Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, Rector
Rev. Joseph Dietz, Deacon
Retta Sparano, Liturgical Coordinator
Michele Engle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
Derek Maninfiore, Music Director
Judith M. Dougherty, Parish Secretary

Vestry

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

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November 2018

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violence for our safety and security in a non-violent and nonjudgmental way.

In November we will also celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends over a traditional Thanksgiving meal. It is ironic that this year as we celebrate this day in memory of thanksgiving meal offered to the native people for their hospitality to the early Europeans who landed on these shores, we are being hostile to the new migrants and turning them away back to their countries of their origin fearing that they take away our jobs, prosperity and security. As an interfaith community we will once again gather to worship and to be with each other on Wednesday, November 21 at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Our Presiding Bishop is fond of saying, "God is good all the time, All the time God is good." Let us not only live our life without fear, relying on God's assuring presence in our lives but also in thanksgiving to our God for God's grace and love for our lives.

Peace and Love, *Koshy*

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Deacon's Roundtable

"I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands."

(Rev. 7:9)

All Souls Day is a major feast of the Church we celebrate at the beginning of November. As a past hospice chaplain and as a Deacon of the church I was and still am called upon to minister and provide consolation to the survivors at the death of their loved one. Many times the survivors are concerned about the disposition of the soul of their loved one. Oft times I have been asked to officiate at their burial.

I remember vividly visiting with an elderly gentleman who suffering from the first stages of

dementia complicated with pneumonia and cancer. I met with him and his daughter and learned that he had not been active in any church for some time. We discussed his prognosis and then had prayers with him for comfort and peace. Two days later he died. His daughter related that she and her dad had talked after my visit and he wanted me to officiate at his funeral.

So often, folks make a conscious decision to turn to God in their last days. I am humbled that our precious Lord has allowed me to help lost sheep find their way back to the fold. Many of their life stories are etched in our minds and continue to move our hearts. But many remain known only to God. Yet no matter their state in life, they all perform a valuable service to us as we walk this earth.

St. John recounts his vision of a "great multitude" gathered before the throne of God in worship. We read in the Letter to the Hebrews that this multitude also surrounds us as a great "cloud of witnesses."

Picture yourself in a large sports arena, running a race. Imagine all these saints sitting in the stands cheering you on. Envision God himself enthroned at the finish line enjoying the saints' worship and joining them in giving you words of hope and encouragement. With so many fans and with so much spiritual support how could you possibly lose?

Every day the saints surround us, encouraging us to run the race of faith. They are always on our side, showing us what it's going to be like when we, like them, inherit God's promise of eternal life. Every day they tell us that we can receive all they have received; we just have to keep our eyes fixed firmly on Jesus, just as they did.

As we go about our business each day, we can experience a dim reflection of the full glory that Jesus wants to give us. Each day we can make that dim reflection a bit more clear, until we finally cross the finish line. With God's grace we can know the glory and the love that all the saints now know.

Deacon Joe

Daylight Savings Time Ends



Turn all clocks **BACK** 1 hour before retiring on Saturday, November 3rd.

Day by Day



The November-December-January issue of Day by Day [Forward] is available in the Narthex Tract Rack

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St. Peter's Food Pantry Request



As Autumn has arrived, the pantry is now gearing up for the Thanksgiving Pantry. We are asking for donations of canned turkey gravy, canned yams, stuffing, scalloped potatoes, olives, pickles. We would also like to receive cans of coffee and boxes of tea, these items are especially looked for to compliment holiday meals. As always, personal products, soaps, toothpaste and shampoos, are in demand. The pantry continues to appreciate your continued, generous support!

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Let's Have Lunch!



Saint Peter's Church is host to a daily lunch program for our neighbors in Phoenixville. Friday is our day to provide lunch for those who would otherwise have little or nothing to eat on

that day. In order to serve lunch, we need a group of approximately five people (men and women) to be available from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Fridays. You may come and go as you please.

If you have a few hours to volunteer some time with our group, please join us! We have fun and fellowship in the kitchen with each other, and it is fulfilling to get to know some of our guests. In serving others, we are serving our Lord.

Judi Hans JudithHans@comcast.net and Ashley Hans ashleyjetjaden@gmail.com

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Phoenixville Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 21, 2018 – 7:30 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville

Preacher: Mark Young,
Pastor, First United Methodist Church
Offering: PACS Food Bank

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Discernment Committee Report



St. Peter's has begun the process to call a new rector in preparation for Fr. Koshy's retirement in June 2019. Your Discernment Committee members are enthusiastically planning to work with you to refresh this congregation's commitment to God's work and serving the

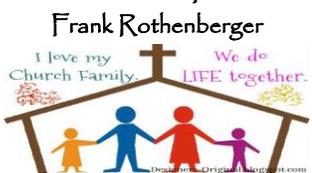
needs of our community. It is our goal to make this experience as positive and constructive as possible for our Church and for all of us. We will ask for your thoughts and ideas through a written survey and will also provide opportunities for discussion and one-on-one comments. We ask you to give us your honest and enthusiastic input as we get started. We will ask what you like about St. Peter's and how you want our church to grow and change in the future. Your input will be used for our Parish Profile, which will accurately describe our parish life and the church's personality for people interested in being our next Rector. The information you provide will describe the foundation on which St. Peter's is built, and will enable us to tell candidates the directions in which all of you want the new Rector to lead us.

Committee Members

Diane Hope, co-chair: dhope321@comcast.net
 Todd Jackson, co-chair: tjjustnrc@yahoo.com
 Jeremy Wenger: jwenger17@outlook.com
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A Stewardship Moment



A common reference point for a lot of people who are asked for money or time for a cause is a public radio fund drive. The announcers usually ask the listeners if they could sacrifice a cup of coffee to support the cause. I kept coming back to this theme this year when I was reflecting on

my Stewardship moment. Instead of sacrificing a cup of coffee, considered a little moment of joy or indulging in a treat, I feel that supporting St. Peter's with our time, talent and treasure, gives us the opportunity to share little moments of joy in God's love with our friends, neighbors and broader community. Our Vestry is focusing on Intentional Relationships centered in faith this year; this could be our time spent together worshiping on Sundays; assisting our dedicated youth leaders to provide a safe, nurturing space for our children, hosting coffee hour so that parishioners can spend quality time getting to know each other; helping our neighbors in need as they come to our pantry or meals; praying together for guidance as our different committees meet; or even spending time to complete maintenance on our beautiful building. These relationships provide as much joy to the recipients as the people offering time to make everything happen – this all happens in the space that is St. Peter's. We may be considering increasing our pledge this year to support the operating costs of St. Peter's, which on average have been \$27,000 per month in 2018; or consider volunteering our talents with one of the many ministries or committees in the church; or decide to spend more time developing an intentional relationship within our parish or community. St. Peter's is such a wonderful place for so many reasons. It would never be possible if it was not one unified community willing to provide an abundance of time, talent and treasure so that everyone, our parishioners, our community and people in need all over the world, could experience God's love for all.

Stewardship plays such a vital role in this because we need to sustain ourselves for the future, so that everyone can continue to experience St. Peter's for generations onward. Please reflect carefully on your pledge for next year and hopefully you will consider increasing your pledge.

Last year we had over 85 pledges totaling more than \$273,000. You may think of this as a sacrifice of something in your life to be able to give more to the church, which could be a cup of coffee during the day, but I also believe that

it is just as important to make sure nobody would even have to consider sacrificing any of the joy that St. Peter's brings to so many people.

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November Celebrations

Birthdays



- [2] Phil Howse, Ryan Sutter, Logan Henry
- [4] Corey Young, Coleman Nagy
- [6] Cynthia Ciancaterino
- [9] James Hammaker, Jan Eddowes
- [11] Vincent Phillips
- [14] Courtney Logar
- [20] Jeremy Wenger
- [24] Kristen Craig
- [27] Greg Schiele
- [28] Joe Dietz
- [29] Retta Sparano, Randall Hobbs
- [30] Megan Magee, Hillary Krummrich

Anniversaries



- [2] Patrick and Jan Wier
- [3] Steve De Prado and Natalie Famous
- [12] Peter and Elizabeth Fifer
- [24] Don and Judi Hans

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November Worship 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 Lisa Scott
- 18 Alexis Wilson
- 25 Ron Gaugler

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 4 Kim Thornton, Anne Atlee
- 11 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke
- 18 Vernet Spence-Brown, Judi Hans
- 25 Cindy Giancaterino, Anne Andrews

Acolytes

- 4 James Hammaker
- Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger
- 11 Michael Logar
- Isaac Nagy, Coleman Nagy
- 18 Vernet Spence-Brown
- Emma Martz, Jolie Chylack
- 25 Sydney Alling
- Phoebe Foerster, Trey Foerster

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 4 Georgette Druckenmiller, Jan Wier
- Jolie Chylack *intercessions*
- Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
- Richard Greene *chalicist*
- 11 Kent Wenger, Sr. Linda-Susan Beard
- Michael Logar *intercessions*
- Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
- 18 Beverly Burkhardt, Marty Bloem
- To Be Announced *intercessions*
- Richard Greene *chalicist*
- Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 25 Mona Chylack, Mary Ellen Crowley
- Ron Druckenmiller *intercessions*
- Carol Russell *chalicist*
- Gary Russell *chalicist*

Ushers

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

Financial Update – September 2018

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- **Income**

- Total open plate donations through September were \$10,600 which was off pace of the budget by \$7,400. Pledges were slightly below budget at \$203,005 by \$1,727, or about 1% of expected pledges, through September.
- Total operating income was \$223,299 through September which is an average of \$25K per month and below the expected income of \$229,270 after removal of Clinic rent of \$14K, a \$5K Diocese grant for the Capital Campaign and other pass through items including the Youth Group trip and direct mission support.
 - The Clinic rental checks for July, August and September were deposited into the operating account to cover shortfalls in pledges. It is expected that the Clinic rent will continue being deposited into the maintenance savings account in October and going forward. Every effort will be made to replenish the maintenance account for the months it was diverted over the summer.
- Total income, including pass through income of \$36,534, was \$274,155.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$235,990 which is an average of \$26K and above expected budget of \$231K, primarily because of higher than expected winter utility bills and repair/maintenance costs expensed in 2018.
- Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$46,904, were \$282,894.

St. Peter's reported a year-to-date operating loss of (\$12,691) through September.

St. Peter's reported an overall loss of (\$8,739), including pass-through, one-time and other designated income and expenses, through September, 2018.

Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 9/30/18):

- Checking: \$8,160
- Savings: \$4,078
- Certificates of Deposit: \$43,494
- Youth Group: \$1,401
- Pantry/Outreach: \$22,030
- Mission: \$1,356
- Building Maintenance: \$14,859
- Concert Series: \$4,708
- Capital Campaign: \$36,185
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$4,921
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$141,392**

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