

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,

Happy New Year! 2019 is upon us, beckoning us to new opportunities, possibilities and challenges. January, for me, brings back memories of our new beginning in God's ministry at St. Peter's 13 years ago. I have many reasons to thank God for these years. The main among them is the trust you placed in me in inviting me to your midst, a bold leap of faith into uncharted territory for St. Peter's in befriending a stranger or an outlier of sorts. As you embraced Susan and me, you have opened our eyes to the thrill and experience of stepping out of our comfort zones and trying out new things. I will treasure the bonds of our friendship we have developed over these years. And I will cherish the memories of our joint work in God's mission. They seem to grow larger and larger as the sun is setting on my ministry at St. Peter's.

For our church the next couple of years is going to be a period of change and transition. Simultaneously our people are engaged in two initiatives, equally important and significant. The Discernment committee, headed by Todd Jackson and Diane Hope, is working with a consultant from the diocese in creating a profile of our church in preparation to begin a search process for a new rector for the church. The Capital Campaign Committee, headed by Mark Hammaker and Fr. Kim Guiser, is charged with the task of raising enough funds to make all parts of our church accessible, accommodating and user-friendly for all. Both these initiatives are crucial and essential to continue the mission of our historic church into the coming years. Each and every one of us need to be intimately involved in this work. This is spiritual work. Sometimes we get distracted by the numbers, reports, finances and projections, and forget to do the necessary soul work of transformation. Our actions need to be accompanied by the disciplines of prayer and meditation. They are necessary for transformation.

A year ago, when our vestry met with Bishop Gutierrez regarding my retirement and finding a new rector, he said these wise words, "God has already chosen our next rector for us, we only need to find out who that is." This is why it is called discernment. Through this discernment process, we are finding God's will for us, finding the one God has chosen for us. It is very important that we all attend the parish-wide meeting called by the discernment committee on Saturday, January 5. What a great opportunity to share with others and with the committee on what we are looking for in our next rector! I trust each of you would avail this rare occasion.

On January 27th, the Capital Campaign Committee is organizing a campaign Kick-off event in the Smith Hall to make people aware of our needs for capital improvements and to show people how they can be part of this great thing God is doing in our midst. Thoughtfully and prayerfully, let us envision our church and its mission and contribute to the funds from the resources God has blessed us with.

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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
Derek Maninfior, 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

How to contact St. Peter's

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Email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com
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What's Happening At St. Peter's January 2019

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As we embark on these projects, let us be mindful that God is present among us, leading us and guiding us. Let us attune ourselves individually and corporately to the mind of Christ. Let us ask God how each one of us can participate in God's future for us.

Blessings, *Koshy*

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Deacon's Roundtable

First, I want to take this opportunity to gratefully thank the congregation and vestry for the wonderful honorarium presented to me at the vestry meeting on December 13. I am humbled by your confidence and support of my ministry at St. Peter's.

We have a lot facing us in the coming year with the kickoff of the capital campaign and Fr. Koshy's pending retirement and search for a new rector. Know that all of you are in my prayers as we face the challenges before us.

At the Diocesan Convention in November Bishop Gutierrez related that over the next six years he would like to see 60 new Deacons ordained in this diocese.

As a beginning, the Bishop has called Deacon Dennis Coleman and Deacon Jeff Moretzin as co-Arch Deacons for the Diocese. They along with members of the Bishop's staff will be overseeing this process. I have been praying for this increase to take place and for members of our parish to listen for God's call to this wonderful ministry. If any of you feel God whispering in your ear to take up this call to ministry, please do not hesitate speaking with me or Fr. Koshy so we can get the discernment process moving forward for you. I will be pleased to sit down with you to talk about your presumed call and the steps that must be taken to move your call forward. Step out in faith and let Jesus be your guide.

I pray God will richly bless all of you this coming New Year. *Deacon Joe*

Capital Campaign Update:

St. Peter's Capital Campaign, *'Imagine What We Can Do Together'*, will formally kick off on January 27 with a celebration for all of our parishioners. We are actively preparing for this great and important initiative for St. Peter's and we hope that the entire St. Peter's community will participate. Your input, dedication and enthusiasm for "what we can do together" is critical to making the campaign a success!

Please plan to attend the luncheon and presentation on January 27 when we will celebrate this important campaign in the Smith Fellowship Hall following the 10:00AM service. Together, we will share our faith and optimism for the future of St. Peter's and envision the service that we may offer to each other, and those in our broader community of Phoenixville.

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Music @ St. Peter's Presents



Julian Cartwright
January 27, 2019 4:00pm

Julian Cartwright is a violinist/violist from Summit, NJ. He met Derek Maninfor while on staff at the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township. Julian has degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and College, and he did his pre-college study at Juilliard. Since graduating, Julian has worked as a record producer, studio musician, teacher, composer/songwriter, and performer in a variety of genres and settings. He is also a visual artist.

Annual Reports for 2018



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 10, 2019 [ONE Service ONLY at 10:00 a.m.] **Absolute DEADLINE for reports to be received in the parish office is January 27th.**

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Altar Flowers



Many Sundays go by without having flowers on the Altar and you are invited to sponsor a Sunday. The placements can be made as a thanksgiving for a birthday, an anniversary, the birth of a child/grandchild, in memory of a loved one. Our resident florist, Ron Druckenmiller will bill you directly, the current cost is approximately \$60 [tax included] for the two altar vases. You can also make this an annual placement.

Contact the Parish Office, 610-933-2195, for availability of a Sunday.

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News from St. Peter's Pantry

Parishioner donations have been plentiful in response to our requests for thanksgiving related foods and we were able to offer a full holiday meal to every family attending our Thanksgiving and Christmas pantries this year.

A great big THANK YOU to all our PARISHIONERS who continue to support the pantry with donations of money and food, and

also to all the VOLUNTEERS who make those donations work for the benefit of people in our community.

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What is a Vestry?

The short answer is that the vestry takes care of the business of a church's operation. At Saint Peter's the vestry is composed of 9 people who each serve a 3 year term; each person can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. A vestry clerk is appointed to take minutes. (Please see the front cover of this NET which lists the names and terms of vestry representatives.) These individuals have been elected at the annual meeting to serve the people of Saint Peter's.

The longer answer is that the vestry meets monthly, usually on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm. Please know that vestry meetings are open to all. An agenda is presented with a timeline; committee or ministry reports are circulated prior to the meeting so all are kept current. We also discuss vestry goals, current projects, and hear clergy reports.

As members of Saint Peter's, we can observe how our church looks from the outside, our beautiful building, our transforming worship, the inspiring music. We can also appreciate how the church works on the inside, the finances, ministries, property issues, etc. Being on vestry gives an opportunity to be involved with our church, but also to learn more about how the church operates and to know each other in a more personal way.

Everyone who is a confirmed Episcopalian member can serve on vestry. Being elected to vestry carries some responsibility, but also provides the joy and honor of serving each other and serving our church. If you would like to be considered for vestry nomination, please contact Father Koshy or Judi Hans.

January Worship Service Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

6 Volunteer
 13 Lisa Scott
 20 Glenn Murray
 27 James Dallas

Lectors - 8:00 am

6 Lisa Scott Lisa Scott *chalicist*
 13 Alexis Wilson
 20 Ron Gaugler
 27 Lisa Scott

Acolytes

6 James Hammaker
 Sean Magee, Trey Foerster
 13 Vernet Spence-Brown
 Isaac Nagy Coleman Nagy
 20 Frank Rothenberger
 Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger
 27 Victor Jackson
 Vernet Spence-Brown, Jolie Chylack

Greeters - 10:00 am

6 Mike Logar, Kim Thornton
 13 Judi Hans, Carmita Magee
 20 Lady Rennie, Anne Andrews
 27 Marva Young, Cindy Giancaterino

Lectors - 10:00 am

6 Amt Atlee, Mary Ellen Crowley
 Sr. Linda-Susan Beard *intercessor*
 Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
 Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
 13 John Magee, Lynn Boukalik
 Susan Mathews *intercessor*
 Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
 Carol Russell *chalicist*
 20 David Brennfleck, Vernet Spence-Brown
 Marty Bloem *intercessor*
 Gary Russell *chalicist*
 Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
 27 Karen Martz, Jan Wier
 Shelly Brennfleck *intercessor*
 Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
 Richard Greene *chalicist*

Ushers

6 Clem Young, Sam Smith
 13 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
 20 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
 27 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

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January Birthdays



[3] Sue Meadows, Sue Patrick
 [4] Todd Jackson
 [5] Karen Greene
 [8] Lana Brock, Noah Hatton
 [9] Ava Feather
 [10] Joseph Vargo
 [11] D. J. Brock, M.J. Kiernan
 [16] John Andrews, Edwin Hartman
 [17] Finn Murray
 [20] Daniel Hammaker, Claire Prato
 Lincoln Sutkowski
 [22] Michael Mitten
 [23] Brandon Rennie
 [24] Alexandra Kiernan
 [27] Judi Hans
 [29] Kacie Vargo, Stephanie Mitten,
 [31] James Sim

January Anniversary

[8] Nigel and Gina Jenkins