

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 remember my first Thanksgiving in America as if it was yesterday. Except for me, the men's dormitory was completely emptied out the day before. The hallway telephone rang, and as I was the only occupant, I picked up the phone and attempted to talk in my broken English. The voice from the other side asked, "Are you Mr. Mathews?" "Yes," I said. I was expecting a call from the Host Family Association of Columbia, South Carolina. The voice from the other side introduced himself to me as Mr. Davis and asked me if I would like to spend the Thanksgiving Holiday with his family. The rest is history; I spent not only my first Thanksgiving Holiday with them but also almost all the holidays and even parts of summer with them while I was in South Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Davis were the ones who introduced me to the country, culture, and its rich heritage and history. I am enormously grateful to them for their kindness and love. They served me as my family away at a time I was suffering from cultural shock and getting adjusted to living in a new place.

I often think about what made the Davises take me in and what made me accept their goodwill. Our desire for connectivity is something innate in us to reach across our tribal boundaries and connect with the "other." In telling the parable of the Good Samaritan to the lawyer who asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" he expanded the meaning of 'neighbor' to someone who is in need. A neighbor is not just someone who lives next door to you; the whole world is our neighbor. We are all connected by our need for each other. The connection the Davises and I made is global in scope, diverse in character and dauntingly complex. As we avail ourselves to each other as equals in our need for each other, a whole new world of possibilities open before us, we become less tribal and more universal, and less afraid of our differences and more affirming our uniqueness.

At a time such as the one we live in today, we are called by the Gospel to live in neighborly ways; we have no alternative without being human. Just as our world shrinks by satellite communications and interdependent economy, it is coming apart at the seams by smoldering communal and cultural conflicts and waves of worldwide migrations triggered by wars, violence and poverty. How can our need for connection and neighborliness put the 'Humpty Dumpty' back together again? Reflecting on her nine years as the Presiding Bishop of our church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori said, "We are no longer consumed by internal conflict over various social issues. We are clearer about who we are – a multinational church, with congregations in 17 nations, worshipping in countless different languages, thriving in international, immigrant, and multicultural contexts everywhere, and discovering abundant life that comes in turning outward to love the neighbors nearby and far away."

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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. David Hyatt, *Assisting Clergy*
Rev. Joseph Dietz, *Deacon*
Rev. Dennis Coleman, *Deacon*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Karen Greene, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2015 Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker
Courtenay Williams
2016 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe
2017 Frank Rothenberger
Retta Sparano
Jan Wier

How to contact St. Peter's

Office: 610-933-2195

Email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com

Web site: www.saintpeterschurch.net

November 2015

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As a church today, we at St. Peter's are more poised and more confident to be a neighborhood church in the world and to engage with the other both near and far.

May Thanksgiving this year serve as an occasion to show our gratitude to God by being a neighbor to someone who is distant to us!

In gratitude,

Blessings,

Koshy

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Deacon's Roundtable

During this summer I have been reading some books from my father's library. These books have been languishing in my library for over 40 years. Many of them are written by the late Roman Catholic Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

In one of Bishop Sheen's volumes entitled "Peace of Soul" I found a paraphrase of the parable of the Pharisee, and the sinner, who were praying in the temple as described in Luke's gospel. It has to do with how we judge others and bring judgment upon ourselves.

The Pharisee is praying before the Lord as follows: "I thank thee, O Lord, that my Freudian advisor has told me that there is no such thing as guilt, that sin is a myth, and that Thou, O Father, art only a projection of my father complex. There may be something wrong with my repressed instincts, but there is nothing wrong with my soul. I contribute 10 per cent of my income to the Society for the Elimination of Religious Superstitions, and I diet for my figure three times a week. Oh, I thank thee that I am not like the rest of men, those nasty people, such as the Christian there in the back of the temple who thinks that he is a sinner, that his soul stands in need of grace, that his conscience is burdened with extortion, and that his heart is

weighted down with a crime of injustice. I may have an Oedipus complex, but I have no sin."

All the while, in the back of the temple, a nasty individual then and now strikes his breast and says, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). Our Lord tells us that he goes back to his house justified.

Bishop Sheen goes on to say, "Very harmful effects can follow accepting the philosophy which denies personal guilt or sin and thereby makes everyone *nice*. By denying sin, the nice people make a cure impossible. Sin is most serious, and the tragedy is deepened by the denial that we are sinners. The really unforgivable sin is the denial of sin, because, by its nature, there is now nothing to be forgiven. The *nasty* people do not like to gossip about the failings of others, because they are only too conscious of their own failings."

This caused me to do some self-examination as to whether I am *nice* or *nasty*. God knows what is in my heart and reminds me through meditation what a sinner I really am. But, thank God, He forgives unconditionally if we but acknowledge how *nasty* we are and allows us to begin with a clean slate. What we write on that slate thereafter is up to us.

Blessings in Christ's name.

Deacon Joe

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A Word From Deacon II

Chester County National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

The purpose of Chester County's National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is to bring greater awareness of the problems of hunger and homelessness nationally and locally to the residents of Chester County.

The vision of this Awareness Week is for Stakeholders in partnership throughout Chester County to work together to increase the community's awareness of hunger and homelessness through plan activities, programs and news media events. Each event is to help the residents of Chester County realize the difficulties that the hungry and homeless persons face daily and ways in which they can help.

This year, we will be kicking this awareness off in Phoenixville on **Thursday, November 12, 5:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church on Main St.** It is an opportunity to learn more about the real challenges for folks living on the margins, and what we might be able to do about it.

Deacon Dennis

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Daylight Savings Time Ends

Turn all clocks BACK 1 hour before retiring on Saturday, October 31st.

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Adult Sunday School Class



Deacon Joe is offering a class on “The Holy Land Revealed” taught by Professor Jodi Magness who holds an endowed chair in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been involved in archaeological digs at many sites in Israel including but not limited to Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jerusalem, and other pre/post-Babylonian exile sites. She has participated in 20 different excavations in Israel and Greece, including the 1995 excavations in the Roman siege works at Masada. She is also a member of the Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. The course consists of 36 half hour lectures with discussion led by Deacon Joe. The Lecture for

November 1 is “Biblical Jerusalem’s Ancient Water Systems” followed by “Samaria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel” on **November 8**. All of her lectures are based on biblical and archaeological research. Deacon Joe hopes you will find time at 9:00 am each Sunday to learn more about what we read in the scriptures.

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Parish Pot Luck Supper



Thanksgiving is fast approaching and what a wonderful time for a gathering to share good food, fellowship and thankfulness within our parish family!

So, please come to a potluck soup dinner at the church on Friday November 20th from 6:00 to around 8 p.m. All are welcome and we are hoping to see many families young and older! We'll enjoy a variety of soups, salads, and desserts.

Please let Cindy Hammaker know what you'd like to bring at chammaker1@gmail.com. Thank you and looking forward to a great turnout for this enjoyable event!

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Music @ St. Peter's Concert

November 22 - 4:00 pm



Frank Henninger - Native American Flute

Frank Henninger started playing Native American flutes in 2005. After two short, private lessons to learn the basics, he began saying “yes” to any musical opportunities that came his way – including more lessons with several well-known flute performers and offers

to play for various audiences. He now plays a variety of Native American style flutes, world flutes, didgeridoo, udu, cajon, djembe and other percussion instruments.

Fran'k, Ravenwolf Flute Circle meets here at St. Peter's 6 times a year.

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Phoenixville Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 25, 2015 – 7:30 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church

355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville

[parking available, handicapped accessible]

The Rev. Nathan Coleman, Bethel Baptist Church will be the preacher for this interfaith service. Guests are invited to bring non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry at PACS. Monetary offering will be distributed by the Phoenixville Area Clergy Association to neighbors in need.

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St. Peter's Food Pantry Thanksgiving and Christmas Pantries



As the holiday seasons are quickly approaching, we are looking at some "empty" spaces on our shelves. Donations of non-perishable food items, especially, cereal, canned yams, powdered gravy packets, cranberry sauce, baking items [i.e. cake/bread mixes, flour, sugar, coffee (always popular) and condiments such as pickles, olives and salad dressing are needed.

In addition to non-perishable food items provided for our patrons, the pantry offers, potatoes, onions, fresh vegetables/fruits, milk and eggs. To help us continue to provide these fresh items, financial contributions to the pantry will be welcomed as well.

PLEASE keep your donations of "reusable" grocery bags coming, they are a great help for the committee and patrons alike!

Thank you all for your generous support of St. Peter's Food Pantry!

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2015 Advent Tree



Each year we set up a tree with tags of suggested items to support an organization providing assistance in the community. In past years, since 2009, we have supported:

Good Samaritan Shelter – 2009, 2012, 2013

The Clinic – 2010

Mom's House – 2011

Seaman's Church Institute – 2014

This year, from November 29th through December 20th, we will gather items from the wish list of our neighbor, **The Clinic**. Please take a tag from the tree and bring your item(s) to church and place under the tree. If you choose to donate a gift card, please give that to Retta Sparano for safekeeping.

Some of the items on the wish list are: grocery store gift cards, infant diapers, hand sanitizers, pump hand soap, paper towels, 5-7 oz. paper cups, 13-gallon white trash bags, self-stick letter size envelopes, postage stamps, children's books in English and Spanish, etc. Please watch bulletin inserts later in November for a full list of items.

St. Peter's is a generous parish, and let's make this year exceptional.

Financial Update: January through September 2015

Frank Rothenberger, Treasurer



The financial position of St. Peter's through September, 2015 is outlined below.

- **Income**

- Total open plate donations and pledges were \$186,255 which is \$1,215 under budget. There are about \$9K in pledges that are behind through 9/30 which have partially been offset by additional open plate donations and pledges received in advance.
- Total operating income was \$232,092 which is about \$22K above the budgeted amount of \$210,495 primarily because of \$6K in fundraising income and about \$13K reported as miscellaneous income for insurance proceeds from the garage fire claim. All repairs related to the fire claim have been completed and expensed.
- Total income, including pass-thru income of \$42,167, was \$274,944.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$211,459 which were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$20,633.
- Operating expenses were about \$1,328 over budget through September primarily because of the repair expenses of about \$13K for the fire damage to the garage.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$35,863, were \$247,321 through September.

- St. Peter's reported net income of \$27,622 through September.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 9/30/15):

- Checking: \$11,708
- Savings: \$38,998
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$24,294
- Mission: \$10,475
- Building Maintenance: \$15,055
- Concert Series: \$1,746
- Petty Cash: \$200
- **Total Cash: \$115,739**

Please carefully consider if your pledges are current and try to meet your total pledge by the end of the year. Your continued support of St. Peter's mission work and operating expenses is greatly appreciated.

Mission Update

Cindy Hammaker chammaker1@gmail.com

St. Peter's had an eventful and successful month in October as much support and energy for Cristosal was able to be generated! Cristosal directors, Noah Bullock and assistant, Hannah Perls, stayed with us in Phoenixville for 4 nights as the missions committee arranged an itinerary of several meaningful events.

New important relationships with Cristosal were formed and significant funds were raised to support their groundbreaking efforts in mitigating the forced migration crisis in El Salvador and Central America. On October 12th, Noah spoke to a captivated audience of 30 people at the Bistro on Bridge. The energy from those present during this event and throughout the weekend was very palpable. What a wonderful way to send Noah off to his next speaking engagement in Washington DC.

Thank you to all who were able to contribute to the mission that is truly making a difference in the lives of so many.

The missions committee continues to meet monthly and all who are interested in contributing, learning more, or attending the School of Global Engagement with Cristosal in summer of 2016 are welcome to attend.

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man·i·fes·ta·tion – noun, *an event, action, or object that clearly shows or embodies something, especially a theory or an abstract idea.*

I often marvel at the precision and patience it took to develop the Oxford English Dictionary. The OED is the definitive record of the English language, featuring 600,000 words and 3 million quotations. I would imagine that some words were rather easy to define. But then there are others that are difficult, like love, happiness, or

emotion. How do you put an exact description to those words?

I was particularly impressed with the definition of manifestation. I commiserate with the author back in the 1870's that was saddled with that one. To try and bring forth a definition for this word, I wonder if the author perhaps was thinking about gratitude to help him formulate his thoughts. I think the practice of gratitude certainly fits the description.

The ways God provides for us are beyond anything we can ask or imagine. We can trust His goodness, guidance, and shepherding care to do more for us than we could ever achieve on our own. What is the manifestation that comes from God's caring for us? I would suggest that it is our gratitude for all that we have and all that will come.

Giving gratefully with our time, talent and treasure is a wonderful response to the countless blessings God gives us without our asking.

Diane Hope

Stewardship Committee

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November Celebrations

Birthdays



- [2] Phil Howse, Ryan Sutter, Logan Henry
- [4] Corey Young, Blake McClimon, Michael McClimon, Coleman Nagy
- [6] Cynthia Ciancaterino
- [8] Olivia Dorais, Raegan Dorais
- [9] James Hammaker
- [11] Vincent Phillips
- [14] Courtney Logar, Rowan Carney
- [16] Robert Henry
- [24] Kristen Craig
- [26] Natalia Tackett
- [27] Greg Schiele

- [28] Joe Dietz
- [29] Retta Sparano
- [30] Megan Magee

Anniversaries



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

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November Worship Participants

Acolytes

- 1 Natalia Tackett, Brandon Rennie
 Sydney Alling, Michael Logar
 Sean Magee
- 8 Vernet Spence-Brown
 James Hammaker, Phoebe Foerster
- 15 Libby Andrews
 Julia Sharpe, Natalia Tackett
- 22 James Hammaker
 Sydney Alling, Michael Logar
- 29 Vernet Spence-Brown
 Katie Parker, Colin Parker

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 1 Joan Grunwell
- 8 Jack Susskind
- 15 Lisa Scott
- 22 Glenn Murray
- 29 Joan Grunwell

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 1 Lisa Scott; Lisa Scott *chaliceist*
- 8 Henry Young
- 15 Lisa Scott
- 22 Henry Young
- 29 Jack Susskind

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 1 Cindy Giancaterino, Kim Thornton
- 8 Marva Young, Anne Andrews
- 15 Judi Hans, Pat Howse
- 22 Michael and Rosemarie O’Rourke
- 29 Lady Rennie, Anne Atlee

Ushers

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

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 1 Leo Guen, Retta Sparano
 Georgette Druckenmiller *intercessions*
 Ron and Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceists*
- 8 Ron Druckenmiller, Susan Mathews
 Carol Russell *intercessions*
 Beverly Burkhardt *chaliceist*
- 15 Marty Bloem, Jan Wier
 Sarah Ohanesian *intercessions*
 Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
- 22 Phoebe Foerster, Michael Logar
 Retta Sparano *intercessions*
 Carol Russell *chaliceist*
- 29 Susan Mathews, Shelly Brennfleck
 Vernet Spence-Brown *intercessions*
 Beverly Burkhardt *chaliceist*



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

[Book of Common Prayer]

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in the season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.