

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,

Returning to church after my surgery seemed somewhat surreal to me. Seeing the happy and smiling faces all around made me feel elated and humbled. Though emotionally somewhat vulnerable, I was up to officiating Eucharist at both services, which were held in honor of the senior members of our church. Whatever emotions I held in check up until the end of the service, came out in full force and made me choke up while saying a prayer of thanksgiving for the birth of baby Robin into our church family. It felt so good to be back, and I am deeply indebted to all of you, my church family, for your prayers, cards, flowers, and food. I also thank Fr. David and Deacons Joe and Dennis for covering for me during my absence.

Now that we are all back from our summer hiatus, I'm excited to introduce to you a couple of new opportunities for worship and service, and also to talk about the latest developments and commitments that are adding new energy to our highly successful Godly Play Program for children.

Every Tuesday, beginning on September 15, we'll offer a mid-week Eucharist at 7 pm, followed by our ongoing weekly Bible Study for those who wish to participate. For those who find attending church Sunday morning next to impossible due to either their work schedule or other secular commitments, this mid-week Eucharist fulfills their weekly need for corporate worship.

This fall marks the third year of our Godly Play program. Over the summer, Jan Wier, the Godly Play Program Coordinator, attended an International Conference of Godly Play in Sewanee, TN. This not only increased her knowledge in Godly Play but also helped her gain new insights into seeing how the methodology can be useful in communicating the Gospel outside of the classroom. Our most dedicated and trained teachers are ready to start a new year of classes in the fall. We are excited to know that Hilary Kline, a new GP teacher, whom Jan met at the conference in TN, will further add strength to our teaching staff in the fall.

Over the past several months, I have been working with a Phoenixville group called Diversity in Action in developing a mentoring program to help children who are failing in our schools and in life due to their adverse social situation. Dr. Alan Fegley, the Superintendent of the Phoenixville School District, and Drs. Parkinson and Garritano, the Principals of High School and Middle School are working with this group in identifying children who could benefit from this mentoring program. The Diversity In Action's (DIA) goal is to help children through its comprehensive and holistic mentoring program achieve life skills to lead a responsible and productive life in a complex world. As it is set to begin this fall, DIA is looking for a few individuals passionate about working with children to help them for a better future. It

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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

2016 Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker
Courtenay Williams
2017 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe
2018 Frank Rothenberger
Retta Sparano
Jan Wier

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What's Happening At St. Peter's

September 2015

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is a great opportunity for serving our community. Please let me know if you're interested and have a passion for it.

We will celebrate our first Sunday back after summer vacation on Sunday, September 13. On this Rally Sunday parents register their children for Godly Play classes and Youth Group activities. Children are encouraged to bring their school backpacks on this day for a special prayer blessing. I look forward to seeing you all back in church soon.

Blessings,

Fr. Koshy

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Deacon's Roundtable

August has traditionally been the month that the Church celebrates the person of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Feast of St. Mary the Virgin is celebrated on August 15 and we also have devotions to Mary on other special days including: the Annunciation, March 25; the Visitation, May 31 as well as Mary's central part as the Mother of God in our celebration of Jesus Birth on Christmas.

Mary is undoubtedly the most celebrated woman found in Christian tradition. She is the woman rooted deeply in the rich traditions of the Jewish people, and a bridge builder to other cultures and traditions. She is most important to tradition; without her no story exists. Mary plays a minor role in the Gospels but a major role in the life of Jesus, his followers and the early Church. She is a living icon of how it is possible to unite oneself to God, always doing God's will rather than one's own. Mary shows *par excellence* how all of us are worthy of God's love and are challenged to be more open to God's graces. She is an exemplar of virtues, especially faith, humility, love and a primary

witness of how our faith is to be lived. She prefigures what the Church is to become, a believing people welcoming God's word and allowing that word to come alive in us. What Mary is, the church is invited to become.

Mary's story is different from that of Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth who longed to be mothers. With Mary, God is not responding to a request but looking for a volunteer, someone who didn't realize her mission or someone willing to face the uncharted territory that lay ahead. The other women prayed for motherhood, Mary did not. Who would believe her story how this was accomplished? Certainly Joseph initially did not. She allowed God to intervene and reveal to Joseph how this was accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit. What an inspiration for those who have suffered intensely from false rumors.

Because Mary heard God's request and accepted it, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word," she became the mother of God. Her assent constituted a crucial turning point in the history of salvation. Her faith made it possible for a God-man's entrance into history.

Mary is the first and perfect disciple because she hears God's word, accepts it and gives her yes. A true disciple is someone who is open to God's will and willing to carry it in one's life. Mary makes discipleship a lived reality. Discipleship requires having the mind of Jesus, "I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me." (John 5:30)

Jaroslav Pelikan writes: "The Virgin Mary has been more of an inspiration to more people than any other woman who ever lived." Mary has left us a powerful legacy and is truly the woman for all times.

Blessings in Christ's name.

Deacon Joe

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Sunday, September 13

Return to Worship times of
8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

AND

Blessing of School Back Packs



A special prayer and blessing will be offered for the new school year as our children start back to school. Children are encouraged to bring their back packs to Church on the 13th and come forward to the altar for prayer and blessing.

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Mid-week Eucharist

and

Bible Study



Beginning **Tuesday, September 15th** we are initiating a new worship opportunity: Mid-week Eucharist at **7:00 p.m.** If you wish to participate, Bible Study will be offered following the Eucharist.

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Annual Parish Picnic



Sunday, September 20th

Rain or Shine

2 to 6 p.m.

Copperfield Inn at Lakeside

Limerick, PA



Children's Chapel and Godly Play

This September will begin our Christian Education programs for children ages Pre –K through 5th grade. Registration for these programs is ongoing through September 13th. First Day of class is September 13th. Our Godly Play program is beginning its 3rd year at St. Peters. Attached is an outline of the Godly Play program. Please take a few moments to read the outline to get a feel for this wonderful new way to teach our children the language of our Christian faith.

The opportunities for Christian Education by age are listed below:

Children's Chapel – Ages 1- kindergarten. Children's chapel retells the Gospel lesson with story, songs, and small craft in an age appropriate way. Parents may attend with their child. Children's Chapel takes place during church following the Gospel. Children and leaders follow the crucifer downstairs to the fellowship hall. Children return to the church at Peace time. All parents are encouraged to take turns in leading this Sunday program. It has an easy to follow guideline, and help is available to mentor you through the process. Contact Jan Wier, janwier@comcast.net.

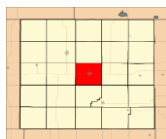
Godly Play – Ages 3 – 5th grade. Please see the attached flyer about Godly Play, our exciting new children's program. Parents know best when their young child will be ready to start. Children need to be able to go to class without a parent, potty trained, and able to sit in a circle of children for a story. We have two beautiful Godly Play classrooms with a shared Art room. Ages 3-1st grade will be in one classroom, and ages 2nd – 5th grade will be in the other classroom. Children will follow a leader to receive communion then proceed downstairs to the class. Class time will end by 11:45. Parents need to come to the classroom to meet their children at dismissal. Two leaders will be present for each class. Contact Jan Wier with any questions janwier@comcast.net.

Children's Education Registration forms are being attached to the weekly email blasts. Hard copies are available in the Narthex of the church.

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Godly Play

At St. Peter's, children are at our center.



Jesus taught that children are at the center of Christian spiritual life. They bring to us unique spiritual gifts: their ability to love and trust without reserve, to listen imaginatively, to question and to speak with candor. Their playfulness brings joy and life into midst. In grateful response, we strive to help children fulfill their individual spiritual promise.

Our Sunday Program – Child-centered, spiritual, and fun, Godly Play helps our children express the spiritual dimension of their lives and build on their innate faith.

Our outstanding religious education curriculum, Godly Play, tells the Biblical story in its purest form – face to face and heart to heart to a listening circle of children. Montessori-based, Godly Play uses physical objects and simple, elegant language to make stories understandable to even the youngest child. In Godly Play, children of all ages learn the Christian story in a way they understand and find personally meaningful.

Godly Play uses simple, beautiful hands-on materials to tell stories of faith. It invites listening children to connect these stories with their personal experience through open ended questions and creative arts. In this way, Godly Play invites children into a direct experience of the Christian story.

A Godly Play session includes time to:

- get ready (enter into listening silence, the first building block of prayer)
- experience a wonder-filled Biblical story with all five senses
- personally explore the story using rich classroom materials
- enjoy a simple shared meal

Large as the sky, rich and imaginative, and filled with food for thought, Godly Play stories will make faith come alive for your child.

Godly Play is for children age 3 (able to say goodbye to parents at the classroom door, toilet trained, and able to sit for a story) through grade 5.

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Our Welcoming Church



Saint Peter's has been described as a friendly community who extends a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers to our church. Even though we might have lighter attendance and activities during the summer months, we also have many visitors who are looking for a church home. You might wonder what you can do to continue our welcoming ambiance. Here are some suggestions:

- Acknowledge the visitor by saying "hello" or "welcome." Even though many visitors do not want a lot of attention, ignoring a visitor does not send the right message.
- Sit near a visitor. If he or she might be having difficulty with following the service or using the hymnal, offer some assistance.
- At the time of communion, let the visitor know that all are welcome at the table.
- During the time of the peace, share a warm message of peace.

- Introduce yourself to the visitor when leaving after the service, and invite the visitor to coffee hour.
- At coffee hour, introduce yourself and family to the visitor. Allowing the visitor to stand or sit alone is not a welcoming gesture.
- You are invited to join the New Member/Growth Ministry. We meet monthly to plan strategies and activities to attract, follow up and incorporate new members into the body of our church.

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El Salvador Mission

Cindy Hammaker



The July, 2015 El Salvador mission was a very enriching experience as 4 missionaries from St. Peter's (Gary Russell, Cindy Hammaker, Koshy Mathews and Ken McCaslin, Deacon at Large of the VF Deanery), merged with 13 other Episcopalians from the Boston area to participate with Cristosal's School of Global Engagement. This experience was invaluable in gaining awareness and understanding of the plight of those struggling with the issues of forced migration and human trafficking and this was the topic of focus for the week. All participants in this group of 17 encouraged one another to grow in understanding and spiritual insight and much energy was generated as these forced migration issues were reflected on and discussed.

It is unfathomable to think of living in such fear that the only alternative is to risk one's life and leave loved ones behind to flee for safe ground. People in migration are exposed to terribly harmful situations as they make every effort within themselves to find some kind of a better life. So many people are suffering in Central America as they find a way to survive

in the midst of their violent community forces. Cristosal is doing great work to advocate for and tend to such victims of forced displacement. The missionaries of St. Peter's are working towards energizing our diocese to acknowledge the human suffering issues associated with the border crisis and forced migration and to take some form of action in mitigating the human suffering that refugees have to endure.

In an effort to support Cristosal's impactful work, St. Peter's will be hosting a golf outing at the Springford Country Club on Oct. 12th. All proceeds will go directly to Cristosal. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Gary Russell ASAP. Brochures about the event can be found in the Narthex.

Thank you again to everyone who helped to make the 2015 mission trip a reality. St. Peter's presence with the poor not only within but outside our borders is steadfast and true, and that in itself is more powerful than can be realized. St. Peter's parishioners have shown that they are members of a church that cares, that is present, and has a desire to be proactive to influence positive change. What a wonderful way of letting ourselves be guided by God and the holy spirit within us!

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You'll Find A Welcome Here!



My friend, you'll find a welcome here. So pause a while to meditate. Here bring the burdens of your mind, with all the pains of your heart you bear. Just bring them here, and take instead the Way of Christ. The peace it brings, the love it shares, the service it inspires; will be to you the Way, the Truth, and the Abundant Life.

First Christian Church, Sebring, Florida

Dollars and Sense

News from your Accounting Warden, Frank Rothenberger



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

- Income
 - St. Peter's received \$135,185 in pledges and open plate donations which is on pace with the budget through July.
 - Total operating income was \$171,908 which is about \$10,000 above the budgeted amount of \$161,185.
 - Total income, including pass-thru income of \$30,159, was \$215,340.
 - This includes \$13,273 from the insurance claim for the fire damage to the garage. The expenses to repair the damage have not yet been incurred.
- Expense
 - Total operating expenses were \$162,498 which were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$9,410.
 - Operating expenses were about \$7,539 under budget through July.
 - Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$25,101, were \$187,599 through July.

St. Peter's reported net income of \$27,740 through July, or \$14,467 with the insurance proceeds removed.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances as of July 31, 2015

- Checking: \$3,272
- Savings: \$52,246
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$25,134
- Mission: \$6,521
- Building Maintenance: \$13,047
- Concert Series: \$2,570
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$116,252**

As always, your generous support of St. Peter's mission work and operating expenses is greatly appreciated.

September Worship Participants

Acolytes

- 6 Vernet Spence-Brown
Colin Parker, Katie Parker
13 Brandon Rennie
James Hammaker, Sydney Alling,
20 Libby Andrews
Sean Magee, Megan Magee
27 Julia Sharpe
Phoebe Foerster, Michael Logar

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 6 Joan Grunwell
13 Jack Susskind
20 Lisa Scott
27 Glenn Murray

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 6 Cindy Giancaterino, Mary Tackett
13 Marva Young, Pat Howse
20 Judi Hans, Kim Thornton
27 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 6 Ron Gaugler *lector and chalicist*
13 Henry Young
20 Lisa Scott
27 Henry Young

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 6 Beverly Burkhardt, Katie Druckenmiller
Sarah Ohanesian *intercessor*
Joyce Paster, Carol Russell *chalicists*
13 Michael Logar, Carol Russell
Susan Mathews *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
20 Marty Bloem, Curt Quaintance
Joyce Paster *intercessor*
Joanne Arnold *chalicist*
27 Sarah Ohanesian, Vernet Spence-Brown
Phoebe Foerster *intercessor*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*

Ushers

- 6 Clem Young, Sam Smith
13 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
20 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
27 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

September Celebrations



- [1] Barnes Jacobs
[2] Andrew Tosco, Allison Tosco
[4] June Blauser
[7] Beverly Burkhardt, Finn Sutter
[8] Glenn Murray, Vincent Giancaterino
[9] Fred Park, Minita Hivale
[10] Christopher Wilson
[11] Megan Wilson
[12] Daniel Coleman, Jr.
[13] Katie Druckenmiller, Reece Farnum
[14] Tom Weiss, Colin Parker
[16] Georgette Druckenmiller, Kavita Hivale;
[17] John Young, Andrew Grace
[18] Jean Getzey
[19] Raymond K. Forester, Jr.
[20] Colin Craig
[26] Joan Grunwell
[28] James Tackett, Dahlia Boone
[29] Cathy Sullens, Kenneth Henry
[30] Andrew Craig



- [8] David and Lisa Scott
[17] Frank and Nancy Giampietro
[18] Ben and Sarah Ohanesian;
[24] Donald and Lisa Brock
[30] Clem and Marva Young