

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,

Welcome back from your summer sojourns! Trust it was a good and relaxing one. Once again we will be worshipping in a full church, and I look forward to greeting each and every one of you in the coming weeks. Fall is expected to be quite busy at St. Peter's. There is a well-thought out program for faith formation for each age group. I hope that you would find something appropriate that you can take part of in addition to worship services on Sunday morning.

One of the reasons we come to church, read the Bible, is to lift up our hearts and focus on God, and hear the difference between the ways of God and the ways of the world. A recent Gospel was a parable from Luke 12: 13-21 where Jesus says: "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be? So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." What is this parable about and what kind of feelings does this parable bring up for us? Is this about money, wealth and material abundance; the fundamentals of our capitalist system, and why is the rich farmer being called a fool? Perhaps for us, this rich man is a wise and responsible person who now needs to build bigger barns to store the abundance of his crops. For then he will have ample savings set aside for the future and will be set to enjoy his golden years. What's wrong with that? Isn't that what our financial planners advise us to do? Isn't that what our capitalist system encourages us to do? In our society the rich man of this parable would be a success story and would be considered an example of hard work and wise planning. So, what's going on? Why is God calling him, "You fool?"

This rich man, so self-focused, can only speak about what he will do, how he will plan for his own secure future with no references to his family, friends, and most certainly no reference to God. His wealth distorts his view of his self in relation to others. Everything he sees starts and ends with himself. Just as his wealth distorts his view of himself in relation to others, it also distorts his view of himself in relation to God.

Money, wealth and property are everyday stuff of our life, it is what we work for everyday and something we shy away from talking about in public. Jesus talked about money more than heaven and hell combined. He talked about money more than anything else except the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants us to have a proper relationship with what we are gifted with: time, talent and treasure. Are we acting as stewards of these gifts or as their owner? This parable helps us see the importance of having healthy relationship to our wealth, to each other, and to God. It is not that money, wealth, or our possessions are inherently bad, but it is about how we see them in the context in which we live. Do we see ourselves as the stewards of our wealth? Do

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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*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Nicholas Lodico, *Organist/Choir Master*
Alexander Smith, *Assistant Organist*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2014 Tracy Parker
Rebekah Ray
Gary Russell
2015 Susan Madden-Cox
John Magee
Retta Sparano
2016 Barbara Endrey
Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker

What's Happening At St. Peter's September 2013

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we see our wealth, health, and our whole being are a gift from God and do we see ourselves ultimately answerable to God in how we managed and handled these gifts? When we bring offerings to the altar at our worship services, we say this prayer, “All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” If all comes from God, then we have obligation to God to use this wealth in right ways.

We are blessed that we might be a blessing to others. The antidote to greed is generosity. Put the Kingdom of God – the way of Jesus – first and not only will your needs be met, but you will gain the kingdom as well. For “*where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*”

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

With Peace and Love,

Koshy

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Deacon’s Roundtable

I would like to bring to your attention an article I recently read on spiritual healing. It is about one Jacob DeShazer. He was a bombardier on the famous Doolittle Raid, which was a retaliatory attack on Japan in March 1942. His plane ran out of fuel on the way home and the crew had to bail out and DeShazer was captured by the Japanese. During his three plus years of imprisonment he was beaten and malnourished. He saw three of the crew members executed and another die of starvation. Most of his time of imprisonment was in solitary confinement. As you can imagine, DeShazer developed a deep hatred of the Japanese.

Toward the end of his captivity, DeShazer managed to get hold of a Bible. As he began to read the Scriptures, DeShazer came to believe that God’s grace was the main reason he was kept alive. DeShazer had a conversion experience in prison and became a devout Christian. As he read and prayed, DeShazer felt

led by the Spirit to forgive his enemies and let go of his hatred. God asked him to take the next step and show respect to his captors—which lead the soldiers to treat him better. In 1948, three years after his release, DeShazer returned to Japan, this time as a missionary. He remained in Japan until the last years of his life.

During his time as a missionary, DeShazer wrote a short tract describing his conversion called, “I was a Prisoner of Japan.” Captain Mitsuo Fuchida, the man who led the attack on Pearl Harbor, read the tract and was deeply touched. In fact it led to his conversion. The two men met and became very good friends and even preached together on occasions. All of this happened because of the work of inner healing that God did in DeShazer’s heart.

This man’s story tells us that no matter how deeply we feel we have been hurt, God can still heal us and lift us up. It also reminds us that our experience of God’s healing love just may compel us to forgive and even serve the very people who hurt us in the first place.

So have faith. Believe that the time you spend in prayer and in the sacraments gives the Lord the opportunity to heal our wounds. Believe that God can help you both repent and forgive. Believe that Jesus wants to build up the interior aspect of your life with the ones who have offended you. Believe and be at peace.

Deacon Joe

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Sunday, September 8

**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 8th and come forward to the altar for prayer and blessing.

AND

Youth Group Meetings Resume

Gary Russell

Youth Group meetings resume on Sunday, September 8th, and will meet on alternate Sunday evenings. A variety of fun and service events planned, beginning with scavenger hunt in Philadelphia as a bonding exercise on October 6th.

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Stewardship Kick-Off



The Stewardship Ministry Committee will kick-off the annual stewardship campaign in September. Please join us for our kick-off coffee hour on September 29, 2013. In the months to come, the Committee will be busy, as we look forward to a fruitful annual campaign. Thank you for your prayerful consideration at this time of year.

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Our 3rd Annual Golf Outing



This event will benefit **St. Peter's Church** and **The Healing Hands Foundation**.

The event will be held on **Monday, September 30, 2013** at the well-manicured Bellewood Golf Club, 400 E. Schuylkill Rd., Pottstown. Registration begins at 10 am, with tee-off at 12 pm.

The cost for this event is **\$135/player**. This price includes entry into all events, 18 holes of golf, riding cart, lunch, dinner and various awards. **Paid foursome is \$525**. There will be a reception and dinner with awards presentation directly after golf.

To help us properly plan for this event, please pre-register by going to <http://www.thhfoundation.org> or by contacting Eric Sharpe at 484-557-9787

Golf attire is required. Collared shirts. No steel spikes are allowed on the course.

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What Is Godly Play?

Jan Wier

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 five.



This outstanding religious education curriculum 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 beautiful hands-on materials 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. 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

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175th Anniversary Celebration

Judi Hans

Please plan to attend our celebration on Sunday, October 20 which will be held at Robert Ryan Catering at the Columbia Station, beginning at 12:30. The bishop will be visiting Saint Peter's for confirmation during the morning service, and we have much to celebrate and give thanks. Let us celebrate together as we honor Saint Peter's presence in the community of Phoenixville and in our lives.

There is no charge for members of St. Peter's; friends and relatives may attend at the price of \$25.00 per person. Babysitting will be available. For reservations or more information, please contact SaintPeter175@gmail.com



More 175th Anniversary News

Mary Tackett for 175th Celebration Committee

Far from winding down, the celebration of St. Peter's 175th anniversary continues in full force with several significant events this fall. We look forward to the visitation of Bishop Clifton Daniel on October 20th. After this special service, the entire parish is invited to the 175th Anniversary Celebration Brunch at The Columbia Station in Phoenixville [see above article]. Note there will not be an 8:00 a.m. service that day. Keep an eye out for your brunch invitation in the mail and reserve your seat!

Here is a full list of not-to-miss happenings:

September

*Publication of parish cookbook
Launching of parish photo directory*

September 22

Guest preacher Bobby Fong, President of Ursinus College, will address faith and vocation

September 30

Charity golf outing at Bellewood Country Club,

October 20

Bishop's visitation, Confirmation. One service only at 10:00 a.m. Celebration brunch follows.

November 3 - All Saints Sunday

Burial of time capsule

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New Pictorial Directory

Judi Hans for New Member/Growth Committee



In recognition of our 175th year anniversary, we are compiling a new directory of all of our members. We hope to publish your picture in your favorite surroundings along with your contact information. Please send your digital picture to JudithHans@comcast.net so you can be a part of this new directory. If you do not have a digital photo, we can take your picture on September 8 at the ministry fair.

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Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6th



The spirit of St. Francis will once again be celebrated at St. Peter's on the first Sunday in October with a pet blessing **directly after the 10:00 a.m. service**. Please note the new time frame! For convenience's sake, small pets in carriers may attend the service with their families. Pets such as larger dogs may arrive in time for the 11:00 a.m. blessing or remain with a family member outside in the shade during the service. If your pet is not fond of traveling, feel

free to bring a photo for blessing. Children are welcome to bring a favorite stuffed animal, too! We are happy to announce that the Treble Choir will perform as part of the celebration. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join in the festivities! The Blessing of the Animals is sponsored by the New Member/Growth Ministry.

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The Wrong Image

Dennis Coleman

This is the image that I wanted. It is the picture that I asked my wife to take, to tell the story that I had in mind about the people of El Salvador. It is the wrong image.



This image is, you see, a fair sample of the homes in a community called La Anemona, in El Salvador. This is the image that I wanted to share, until I met my new friend, Juan. This is Juan.



Juan and I became friends very quickly, after he said “Your Spanish is bad, but my English is pretty good.” We both had to laugh at that. Juan explained that he had lived in Houston for three years, and had saved enough money to build a nice home in El Salvador. Juan is a happy guy, the picture shows that. Juan also took a liking to my green Irish Phillies cap, which is why he is wearing it. The reason he kept it is because I liked him so well, and so quickly. We had lunch with Juan at his home, and I got to know his family, and a bit of his story. He is proud of both.

Juan lives in a shack just around the corner from the ones in the top photo. It is very much like those in the picture. But that was not always true.

You see, Juan used his Houston money and built a nice home. A home of stucco and brick, tile and wood. He lived there until 2009, when a combination of Hurricane Ida and an earthquake consorted to swallow up all of the homes in La Anemona. Here is a photo of what you can see of Juan’s home today.



Everyone in the community lost their home. Four people died, although it would have been many more unless a brave, and now revered, woman named Milagra had not alerted the village to let them know that the storm was worsening overnight. We learned this story in a very matter-of-fact way. No sorrow, no search for pity.

After this tour, we went to Juan’s home for lunch, and it was lunch very much like having lunch with any other group of friends, except for the abiding sense that the generosity shared in the meal seemed to far outstrip their ability to

feed us so well. We laughed, and talked about our kids.

Juan and his family have been squatting on this land for four years. They recently were able to electrify each home, but the water is found in a few common areas for all to share. Since 2009, the entire community has been trying to get permission from their backwards government to build on nearby lands. Juan feels certain that this will happen someday soon and he knows that he will be able to rebuild, because, as he says, he did it before.

No one in La Anemona expects a dollar from their government to assist them. I also didn't hear a single word of complaint. There was no damning their luck, or looking for someone to blame. It is simply what happened to them, and what they planned to do about it. It is also important to note that they didn't have their hand out to the rich American missionaries in any way, except to extend a hand in friendship.

As a way of chronicling the story of these people, I wanted to show you their desperate living conditions. That is the wrong image, and to tell their story in that way would be to insult them.

So, I offer you this image. It is a picture of Juan, and his family...and me, his new friend. There is no poverty in these faces.



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I Remember

Retta Sparano



At St. Peter's we rejoice in welcoming new people to our parish family. Some have only been here a few months or a few years, and many others have a history with the parish of 30, 40, 50 and even 60 years! In talking with some of the long-term parishioners at the recent Senior service and luncheon on August 25, I was inspired by the many memories that were shared.

Beginning this edition of the *NET* and going forward, we will get a chance to hear some of their comments and fond memories. **Do you have a memory to share?** Some of your vestry members will be contacting parishioners to ask for their memories so we may all be enriched by the history of the parish. We would love to include your stories.

Jean Getzey: *I remember when the kitchen was in the current pantry location, and we had long walks bringing the food to the steam tables in the undercroft area. Strawberry Festival every June and roast beef dinners with all the side dishes were very well attended. Parishioners worked together to make these events happen, and had fun in the process.*

Pat Howse: *I remember as a young woman helping in the kitchen to prepare some of the food to be served. I had the job of chopping vegetables and being told in no uncertain terms that "it had to be done right". Another memory was of the Fifer's cat Hagar who would come to church on Sundays and march up the center aisle and spend time in the chancel to be near Fr. Fifer. She had appeared on the rectory property one day, and he named her Hagar and she was a presence until the Fifer's retired.*

Dawn Koch: *I remember Fr. Lanigan "he was a sweetheart", and my mother babysat for his son Neal. My husband Charles and I were*

married in May of 1953 by Fr. Fifer, and my children were married by Fr. Evans.

Watch for more memories in each edition of the NET.

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September Celebrations Birthdays



[1] Barnes Jacobs; [2] Andrew Tosco, Allison Tosco; [7] Beverly Burkhardt, Finn Sutter; [8] Glenn Murray, Vincent Giancaterino; [9] Fred Park, Minita Hivale; [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. [24] Peggy Kandle; [26] Joan Grunwell [28] James Tackett; [29] Cathy Sullens, Kenneth Henry

Anniversaries



[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

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September Worship Participants

Acolytes

1 9:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
8 10:00 Thomas Hammaker
Brittany Alling, Libby Andrews
15 Jacob Schaefer
Will Tackett, Brandon Rennie
22 Vernet Spence-Brown
Thomas Hammaker, Brittany Alling
29 Brandon Rennie
Libby Andrews, Jacob Schaefer

Greeters - 8:00 am

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

Greeters – 10:00 am

1 9:30 Pat Howse, Anne Atlee
8 10:00 Robert and June Blauser
15 Anne Andrews, Pat Howse
22 Kim Thornton, Judi Hans
29 Lady Rennie, Mary Tackett

Lectors - 8:00 am

1 Peggy Kandle *lector*
Lisa Reid-Scott *chalicist*
8 Susan Madden-Cox *lector*
15 Todd Jackson *lector*
22 Peggy Kandle *lector*
29 Todd Jackson *lector*

Lectors – 10:00 am

1 9:30 Iris Blanche, Beverly Burkhardt
June Blauser *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
8 10:00 Carol Russell Libby Andrews
Vernet Spence-Brown *intercessor*
Phil Howse *chalicist*
15 Katie Druckenmiller, Marty Bloem
Jan Wier *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
22 Nicholas Lodico, Trevor Hall
Courtney Logar *intercessor*
Joanne Arnold *chalicist*
29 Ron Druckenmiller,
Georgette Druckenmiller
Henry Young *intercessor*
Phil Howse *chalicist*

Ushers

1 9:30 Marie Hailey, Curt Quaintance
8 10:00 Carl Rennie, Jon Martin
15 Robert Parker, Vincent Giancaterino
22 Clem young, Jacob Schaefer
29 Sam Smith, Bruce Alling

Dollars and Sense
News from your Accounting Warden
Retta Sparano



PASS THROUGH ACCOUNTS: Income received for Pantry, Outreach, Rector's Fund, mission work, Youth Group and other specially designated funds is expensed directly to each.

PROPERTY: 2013 budget for building and grounds maintenance and supplies is \$4,000. In addition, a portion of the Clinic rent is earmarked towards maintenance savings. Ideally, 10% of the budget should be allocated to maintenance to cover general expenses and unexpected repairs.

Special thanks to the teams of parishioners who volunteer their time and energy to keep our grounds looking so beautiful during the summer. Cooler weather will soon be upon us, and the higher utility bills will take us considerably over our budget. As we share our building with the community, we will experience elevated gas and electric costs, and will need to increase this line in the 2014 budget.

Including the portion set aside from Clinic rent, we have 3.8% assigned to this category. Property budget and expense through 7/31/13 is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>Expensed through 7/31/13</u>
Building/Grounds Maintenance	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,374
Insurance	9,600	4,669
Utilities	15,000	14,180
Smith Room Chairs	2,000	1,709
Boiler Loan	8,128	6,096
Maintenance Svgs from Clinic rent	<u>5,935</u>	<u> </u>
Total	\$44,663	\$32,028

Pledge and open plate:

<u>Received</u>		<u>Account Balances as of July 31, 2013</u>	
January	\$19,014	Checking	\$ 8,604
February	\$21,766	Savings	\$37,316
March	\$21,274	CDs	\$11,549
April	\$15,896		
May	\$15,383		
June	\$20,301		
July	\$19,969		

In early September, the Budget Committee begins drafting the 2014 budget. We will be using historical data, anticipated increases in several areas and most importantly recognizing the growth of all our ministries that make St. Peter's the vibrant and welcoming church in our community.

Thank you for your contributions to support the work and ministry of St. Peter's Church.