

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,

October will be a full and eventful time for Susan and me. In addition to St. Peter's 175th anniversary celebration, my brother and niece are visiting us from India. Our daughter Manju is getting married at the end of the month. These upcoming events awakened in me a new awareness of how blessed I am and my need to be grateful. A priest friend of mine is known to often say, "I am blessed." Even during rough times in his life, I heard him say this. His refrain makes me often think how much I take my blessings for granted; being aware takes practice.

As I mindfully meditate over those good things I enjoy and experience in life, a list emerges in my mind, making me ashamed of not noticing them before and not being thankful to God. How true is the axiom: "gratitude is an attitude!" Carl Sagan, the late astronomer, once said, "If you want to make an apple pie from scratch, you first have to invent the universe." What he implied by that is while we can legitimately take credit for coming up with a recipe for apple pie or developing the skill to make one, let us not forget that without apples there wouldn't be any apple pies. Let us not take the apples for granted or for that matter any of the ingredients that go into an apple pie.

I often hear people who are successful in life say, "I am a self-made man." That comment makes me want to say: "What about all the sacrifices others have made so that you can be successful? What about your parents who brought you into the world? What about the teachers, schools, etc.? What about the environment where one's initiatives, hard work and efforts are rewarded? What about the air you breathe and the health that allows you to breathe?" Coming to this country as a South Asian immigrant, I would not have survived without the many opportunities I received, the good people I met, and the grace of God. All these things brought me to where I am today as an Episcopal priest in a suburban church in the US. What I am today is an aggregate of both the sunny days and the cloudy days of my past, and I am grateful to both the good and bitter experiences of life.

Awareness of the origin of our blessings causes us to be grateful to God and this gratefulness leads us to be generous people. Saying thanks is not enough; we must also engage in doing thanks. When we are truly grateful to God, we would naturally become generous toward His mission in the world and become partners in feeding the poor, tending the sick and advocating for the vulnerable and marginalized. Saint Peter's in Phoenixville is one of those places where God has been doing this mission over the last 175 years. Today we are grateful to all those who have gone before us and who have endowed us with our beautiful church and a rich history. May we be found equally as faithful and generous in taking our church forward as a gift to the generations yet to be born!

Peace and Love, *Koshy*

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 October 2013

Table of Contents

p. 1	From the Rector
p. 2	Deacon's Roundtable Stewardship
p. 3	Blessing of the Animals Mission Committee News Property News
p. 4	175 th Anniversary Celebration Food Pantry Update
p. 5	New Pictorial Directory I Remember New Members
p. 6	Dollars and Sense
p. 7	October Celebrations Worship Participants
p. 8	October Parish Calendar

Deacon's Roundtable

Twenty years ago I was honored to be the homilist at the Baptism of my youngest granddaughter at Christ Church in Pottstown. I want to share with you, as I did at that time, some of my thoughts on Baptism and what it means for all of us.

Baptism is the first of many sacraments we receive during our life time. This sacrament may be the most important, though I'm afraid often taken for granted. Since infants cannot speak for themselves; godparents, sponsors, and we the congregation, take vows for the child. These vows are truly awesome and should not be taken as just words to complete a ceremony.

With God's help – this can only be achieved through prayer – we promise to bring the child up in the Christian faith and life. We promise to help the child grow in the full stature of Christ. We take a vow to renounce Satan, the evil powers of the world, and all the sinful desires that draw us away from the love of God. Finally we are asked to turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as our Savior, to put our whole trust in his grace and love and to follow and obey him as Lord. We take these vows for the child as others, no doubt, took similar vows for us.

Think about it. We are making promises for someone who cannot yet make decisions for themselves. By doing so, we promise to help this person achieve this awesome goal. We also affirm that we will support these persons in their life in Christ.

All of us celebrate our birthdays. How many of us remember, let alone celebrate, our date of Baptism. The day we were accepted and marked as one of Christ's own forever. Godparents and those of us who may be godparents, help our godchild to imprint this date on their minds. "How?" you ask. By marking the special day on your calendar, just as a birthday, then send a card, a small gift, or (as they get older) make a phone call to let them know you care about them and that you are

praying for them on their special Birth-in-Christ Day.

As children grow and are nurtured in the faith by those of us who took the vows for them, they come to realize the meaning of turning to Jesus Christ and accepting him as their Savior. When this occurs children are ready to be prepared for the Rite of Confirmation, or the reaffirmation of faith vowed for them by us at their Baptism.

Baptism is extremely important in the church, for it is only through Baptism that we are admitted to the Lord's Table. It is there that we accept the real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. Thus we receive spiritual and physical nourishment which prepares us to go into the world to do the Lord's work – only you and he know what that work is.

In Christ's Love,

Deacon Joe

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Fellow St. Peter's Members and Attendees,

For the last several months, the Stewardship Committee has concentrated on the Time and Talent aspects of Stewardship; highlighting the generosity of members of the St. Peter's family who devote hours of time and apply their talents (or old fashioned muscle power) to maintaining and improving all aspects of St. Peter's for all of us.

Now, it is time to address the Treasure portion of the classic Time, Talent and Treasure triumvirate.

Fact: A strong pledge base is essential to develop and support the operating budget of our church.

As such, we each must consider our Stewardship as it relates to our priorities. The financial health of St. Peter's for 2014 and beyond depends on where we put St. Peter's on our priority list.

We kick off the 2014 campaign with "First Fruits Sunday" on Sept 29th. Have an apple on us and join us for coffee hour after the 10 AM service.

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Iris Blanche for your Stewardship Committee

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Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, October 6th

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.** Small pets in carriers may attend the service with their families before the blessing. 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 a blessing. Children are welcome to bring a favorite stuffed animal. Please invite your neighbors and friends!

Mission Committee News

Cindy Hammaker

The Mission Committee is meeting on a regular monthly basis with the next meeting slated for October 14th. Anyone interested in contributing to the church's mission of service to others is welcome to attend. The committee is presently focusing its attention on how to maintain our ties and support of Cristosal and its' works of supporting the El Salvadoran people through their struggles for social justice and improved quality of life.



Fundraising efforts are also being discussed and you can look forward to our annual Car Wash on Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at STS Tire, in Kimberton (next to Rocco's Pizza) AND our annual Citrus Sale which will begin the end of October. This is a popular sale, which people *rave* about, and will continue until early December.



If you are interested in participating in an inspirational trip to El Salvador in 2014 or would like more information, please contact Cindy Hammaker at chammaker1@gmail.com.

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Property News

Gary Russell

Parish Beautification Day

Saturday, October 19 - 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Have you noticed how beautiful our gardens are this year, and the well groomed look of the church grounds? This is all done through volunteers with no impact on the church budget (except for a little mulch). We have a new

volunteer effort this year called the “Lawn Maintenance Crew” and the “Garden Committee”.

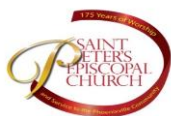


The lawn maintenance crew consists of five teams of two, each team rotating responsibility for lawn maintenance each week. Thank you to team members Dave Meadows, Mike O’Rourke, Tom Weiss, Victor Jackson, Gary Russell, Clem Young, Ray Forester, Eric and Julia Sharpe, Mark Hammaker and Dennis Coleman. Substitutes: Todd Jackson and John Magee.



The Garden Committee has members Julia Sharpe, Barbara Endrey and Iris Blanche. Notice the well groomed mulch beds and flowers around the church building as well as new ground cover planted between the parking lot and Prospect Street (formerly the home of six foot high weeds during the summer). If you were wondering who planted those blazing red large flowers in the courtyard next to the parking lot, thank Clem Young next time you see him.

Thanks to all these men and women who faithfully keep our building and grounds a beautiful place. We are proud to call St. Peter’s our home and God’s house.



175th Anniversary Celebration of Saint Peter's

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 Saint 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 StPeter175@gmail.com

Please be sure to **RSVP by October 10** so we can have an accurate count of how many will attend.



Food Pantry Update

Deacon Joe Dietz



The Food Pantry is gearing up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. You can be a big help with your donations of turkey or beef gravy and cranberry sauce. The items donated should be placed in the wicker baskets in the narthex. The Thanksgiving pantry date is November 23 and the Christmas pantry is December 21. Thank you for your continued generous donations of food and money.

A question was raised by a member of our parish about the value of the dollar in buying groceries for our normal biweekly pantry. We stretch our dollars through purchases at Bottom Dollar. They have been very good to us by giving us the cheapest price and often donating additional items for our food pantry. It is estimated that every dollar we spend is worth at least \$1.30 in groceries. The money you donate to the Outreach envelope is used to help purchase items that we do not get donated such as milk, eggs and other dairy products. We also

receive fresh fruit and vegetables for our clients from the Chester County Food Bank. Most of these items come from the gleaning program. In the winter we purchase fruits and vegetables on occasion from Produce Junction. Be assured that we make every dollar stretch as far as we can in purchasing items that are not donated.

If you have further questions or would like to help out with the Food Pantry please feel free to speak with Deacon Joe, Gary Russell or Doreen Penczer.



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, I can take a picture after the 10:00 service.



I Remember



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.

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.

Phyllis Byndas: *I remember when we shared our building with Holy Ghost Orthodox parish when they were building their new church, and they held services for their congregation in St. Margaret's Hall. Sunday School classes were held in the Smith room and the undercroft (when the kitchen was in the current pantry area).*

Retta Sparano: *I remember moving to the rectory (current Clinic building) one week before Christmas in 1950 when Church St. was a two-way street and watching the moving van come up from Starr Street. Six children aged 4 to 21 and our parents were happy to be in such a big house with a yard after moving from center city Philadelphia. We used to play hide and seek in the church buildings and could easily stay hidden for a long time. My sister Helen was married the next month, and what a beautiful place for a wedding. I lived in the rectory for 16 years before marrying and living in the next block of Church Street.*

Watch for more memories in each edition of The NET.



New Members



A letter of transfer has been received for Kristen, Andrew, Lindsey, Fiona and Kate Craig.

WELCOME to St. Peter's Craig Family!

Dollars and Sense

News from your Accounting Warden

Retta Sparano



I remain hopeful that you have had a chance to learn more about St. Peter's operating budget with the "Dollars and Sense" articles in *The NET*. I look at our budget like a New Year's Resolution list that starts with the greatest of intentions and sometimes gets off track. We do our very best with the information available to be as accurate as possible.

Annual Budget Preparation: The draft budget for the following year is prepared in early October after receiving input from Fr. Koshy and all ministries and committees. The budget committee uses historical data and estimates as close as possible what the unknown expenses might be. For example: with boiler repairs, we began to see a reduced utility bill, so estimated a lower amount for 2013. That has proven to not have been a good number as by the end of September we will have exceeded the allocation for utilities and have 3 colder months ahead of us. The Farmers' Almanac is predicting an extremely frigid winter ahead – should we believe it?

After In-gathering Sunday on November 17, and the pledge amounts are known, the draft budget will be presented to the vestry for discussion. It has been our practice to give a final vote on the budget in December and it is then presented to the parish at the annual meeting in February.

The Stewardship Committee will be sending a letter to all parishioners in October, and the vestry will follow that in early November with some detail on what is covered in the budget. I encourage everyone to inwardly digest this information as you prayerfully consider your 2014 pledge.

Income and Expense through August 31, 2013

INCOME

Pledge and Open Plate	\$153,961
Clinic Rental	12,000
All Other	<u>4,229</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$170,190

EXPENSE

Diocesan Giving	\$ 9,323
Personnel	111,389
Worship	2,587
Administration	18,313
Mission	4,782
Ministries	3,091
Property	<u>35,897</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$185,382

The above income and expense does not reflect the "pass-through" accounts such as mission, pantry, rector's discretionary fund and specially designated funds. Detail available upon request.

October Birthdays



- 1] Helen Young
- 2] Curt Quaintance
- 5] Ian Schiavone
- 6] Marjorie Hairsine, Karen Hartman
- 7] Sarah Schaefer, Diane Hope;
- 9] Sharon Schiele, Marva Young, Nancy Perna
- 14] Phoebe Foerster
- 15] Elizabeth Fifer, Abigail Green
- 17] Henry Young
- 18] Mark Hammaker, William Brennfleck
- 19] Michael O'Rourke
- 20] Kevin Hailey, Jennifer Kandle
- 21] Lisa Reid-Scott
- 23] Susan Hyatt, Evan Morse
- 24] Bruce Alling, Cindy Arena
- 26] Michael Browne
- 28] W. Peter Druckenmiller
- 31] Marie Hailey

October Anniversaries



- 8] Ted & Candy Morse
- 19] Gary & Carol Russell; Brian & Kim Thornton

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October Worship Participants

Acolytes

- 6 Thomas Hammaker
Brittany Alling, Jimmy Hammaker
- 13 Jacob Schaefer
Libby Andrews, Brandon Rennie
- 20 Vernet Spence-Brown
Nick Martin, Zack Martin
- 27 Brandon Rennie
Sydney Alling, Brittany Alling

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 6 Jack Susskind
- 13 Glenn Murray
- 20 **ONE SERVICE ONLY**
- 27 Lisa Reid-Scott

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 6 Cindy Giancaterino, Judi Hans
- 13 Lady Rennie, Mike Logar
- 20 Vernet Spence-Brown, Marva Young
- 27 Carol Smith, Anne Atlee

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 6 Lisa Reid-Scott *lector*
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 13 Peggy Kandle *lector*
- 20 **ONE SERVICE ONLY**
- 28 Ron Gaugler *lector*

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 6 To Be Announced
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 13 Libby Andrews, Beverly Burkhardt
Susan Mathews *intercessions*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
- 20 Only the Gospel Read
Nicholas Lodico *intercessions*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 27 Phoebe Foerster, Carol Smith
James Jackson *intercessions*
Phil Howse *chalicist*

Ushers

- 6 Vincent Giancaterino, Clem Young
- 13 Victor Jackson, Carl Rennie
- 20 Marie Hailey, Sam Smith
- 27 Jacob Schaefer, Curt Quaintance

