

# SAINT PETER'S NET

JESUS SAID TO PETER, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE."  
MATTHEW 4:19

## From the Rector

*"To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:*

*May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.*

*Beloved, being very eager to write to you of our common salvation,*

*I found it necessary to write appealing to you to*

*contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints".*

*Jude 1: 1&4*

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and savior Jesus Christ,

The world as we knew it has changed; and the need to adapt to this rapidly changing situation is not only urgent; it is fraught with challenges. As months pass and the end seems still out of sight, to our natural eyes, it is quite understandable if fear and insecurity set in. And yet, we can be encouraged by the inspiring ways in which individuals and communities are rising in response to this crisis. There are opportunities for engagement that are emerging for the church in this time of great turmoil and isolation. In this our hour of brokenness and great need, as people of faith, we are called to persist in prayer, trusting in God's unconditional love and abundant grace for all.

Jude's letter begins and ends with very comforting words to Christians that stress the action of God. God calls, God loves, and God keeps. We are called, are loved, and are kept. Jude is very eager to begin by stressing the security of the believer in God's electing and preserving love. In verse 4 he uses the word "Contend" The verb translated contend earnestly is in the present infinitive, showing that the Christian struggle is continuous.

Many of us have found ourselves during this time taking up responsibilities and doing things we never thought we could, as we continue receiving the news no one seems to have an idea as to how things will be tomorrow. Will there come a time when we will be able to meet together, sit together in Church or even in our friends and family's homes? Go to school, to the mall? Some of our kids or even us were ready to finally walk across the podium and receive their hard-earned degrees but now we will settle for receiving them in the mail. These and more are issues we are now faced with.

These issues may sometimes lead us to take the regrets of yesterday and the uncertainties of tomorrow and we forget we still have today to deal with, we withdraw from the bank of tomorrow, increase the burden of today and we end up paying interest on both. The interest draws from the Principal (our Faith in God). Jude therefore reminds us to keep fighting. COVID-19 is what we are dealing with now don't let it overwhelm your faith.

When we look at our lives, we may not see all the tools necessary for winning, but then God does not need very much to help us win. He only needs a little - a little trust, a little hope, and a little faith. Even if these are no greater than a grain of a mustard seed, mountains will move!

**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. Fr. Samuel Ndungu, Rector  
Rev. Joseph Dietz, Deacon  
Retta Sparano, Liturgical Coordinator  
Derek Maninfor, Music Director  
Judith M. Dougherty, Parish Secretary

### Vestry Officers

Diane Hope, Senior Warden  
Mary Jo Wells, Junior Warden  
Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

### Vestry

2021 Shelly Brennfleck  
Frank Rothenberger  
Victor Jackson  
2022 Lynn Boukalik  
Vernon Feather  
Mary Jo Wells  
2023 Leo Guen  
Diane Hope  
Todd Jackson

### How to contact St. Peter's

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### What's Happening At St. Peter's

#### May 2020

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*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God, I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Fr. Sam*

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### **Deacon's Roundtable**

The symbol of John the Evangelist is the eagle. He followed the advice of St. Paul and fixed his mind on higher things. He was lifted by the wind of the Holy Spirit to unprecedented heights. He soared like only an eagle can.

John recounts for us how Mary Magdalene, while it was still dark, courageously went to the cemetery and discovered that the Lord was no longer in the tomb. She delivered this astounding news to the Apostles who then raced to verify that what she said was true.

Mary Magdalene and the Apostles were faced with a puzzle and a reality that God alone could solve and explain. They knew the scriptures and knew the teachings of Jesus but at that point could not fathom the mystery dramatically before them. Thanks to the gift of faith we have received and thousands of years of reflection and belief that have gone before us, this Easter we are able to grasp the significance of the empty tomb. The grave was no place for the Lord of Life. He dwells among the living and fills our own hearts.

The story of the empty tomb is profound and moving. It is humanly impossible to believe, but is a religious truth that is at the heart of our faith. The empty tomb marked the end of the path of Jesus' earthly existence and was the launching point of his return to his Father. The empty tomb was filled with funeral linens that

were no longer needed because Jesus was now clothed in the light that darkness could not overcome. The empty tomb was a sign that one day all tombs would be empty since the risen Christ will ultimately claim for his own all those who love deeply and totally devote themselves to his life and teaching. The empty tomb is a reminder that our own graves do not mark the end of our existence in the Lord but a new stage of service in his kingdom. The empty tomb fills our being with wonder and awe at the power of the living Christ.

I pray all of you are well and that this pandemic will pass leaving us with a greater faith in the healing power of the risen Lord. Alleluia.

*Deacon Joe*

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### **DAY by DAY**



The May/June/July issue of *DAY by DAY* [Forward] is now available in the Narthex Tract Rack and ready for when St. Peter's is ready to once again open the doors to everyone.

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### **Lenten Dollar A Day Campaign For Cristosal**



Recently members of our Mission Committee met on Zoom with Noah Bullock, Executive Director of Cristosal. Currently the citizens of El Salvador are locked into their homes by the President of El Salvador due to the corona virus emergency. He has decreed that any person apprehended outside their home will be involuntarily placed in a detention center for a minimum of thirty days with no guarantee of release. As usual, autocratic style leaders find national emergency powers exhilarating and

take advantage of the crises to exercise their prerogatives, not always beneficial to the citizens and laced with political calculations favorable to themselves. Not to be bowed, Cristosal is still defending against human rights abuses via video and phone conferencing with the national supreme court continuing to advocate for and provide support to those persons and families being involuntarily displaced by violence and threats. They have not laid off any employees and are still working fully staffed from their homes to sustain their programs across the board. If you have accumulated funds in your Dollar A Day envelope, please mail a check to the church office within the next week (121 Church Street). We are a little behind due to current events and would like to gather them for dispatch to Cristosal soon to continue supporting their vital work. Thank you for your generosity and please pray for the brave men and women of Cristosal in their fight to defend human rights. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

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## St. Peter's Pantry and COVID-19



Thank you for your continued faithful support of our pantry during the COVID-19 health crisis. During this time of social distancing and stay at home precautions, food drives have become extinct and the food supply in general has suffered shortages and delays. Our parishioners have generously responded to our request for cash donations in lieu of food donations and we are very grateful for your generosity.

We are taking a variety of precautions based on the principles outlined by the CDC.

- Avoid close contact
- Clean your hands often
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect

- Cover coughs and sneezes

Our principles of operation have been modified to address safety concerns:

- Measure temperatures of volunteers upon arrival
- Limit number of volunteers to the absolute minimum.
- Volunteers in highly vulnerable groups encouraged to stay at home.
- Follow all safety precautions to the letter.
- Re-design interior work flow to maintain social distancing.
- Purchase pre-packaged breakfast items in lieu of producing in house.
- Pre-package pantry bags and breakfast bags in lieu of self-selection pantry.
- Distribute with six foot distancing and minimum volunteer contact.

We are taking similar measures with our daily ecumenical lunch program as provided by our nine partner churches and civic organizations.

These changes have allowed us to continue our pantry and meal programs as scheduled, that is, pantry every other Saturday, breakfast every Saturday and lunch meals five days per week Monday through Friday. It is only through the dedication of our volunteers and community partners that these programs have continued uninterrupted to serve those in need. We are very grateful to each of them.

We strive to meet our Baptismal Covenant:

- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Will you strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being?

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## New Member Ministry



### Facts about growing churches

Before the arrival of the COVID-19 virus that does not allow visitors to enter Saint Peter's, the New Member Ministry has met monthly to

discuss ways to attract and retain potential new members. Those involved in increasing church membership know that new people are the lifeblood of a growing church. Like a spigot, growing churches want to keep the valve open for the flow of new people and they want to ensure that nothing impairs or cuts off the flow of new people to the church.

For the next few months, we will learn significant facts about first-time guests looking for a church home, so we can use this time of isolation to prepare for our doors to open again to welcome guests.

**Visitors make up their minds regarding a new church in the first ten minutes of their visit.**

Before a guest has sung a beautiful hymn with our congregation or heard Father Sam's inspiring sermon, they have made up their mind whether or not to return. Greeting and welcoming of the first-time guest is very important in determining whether they will worship with us again. Connecting with first-time guests is not solely dependent on the priest, but on those first lines of people who represent our church.

We have assigned weekly greeters to identify and welcome visitors to Saint Peter's, but people in the congregation can also introduce themselves, acknowledge them during the Peace, and invite them to coffee hour. More to follow next month.

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**A New Grandchild!**



Brian and Kim Thornton welcomed Wade Matthew Thornton, born on February 26, 2020

at 2:30 a.m., weighing in at 6 lbs. 8 oz., and 21 inches long. Wade is Brian and Kim's first grandchild. He was a little late and had a hard time getting here, but after some difficulty he made it. His proud parents are Matthew and Erin Thornton and they live in Spring City.

With this quarantine Brian and Kim haven't been able to see much of Wade at all except for the first few weeks after he was born. That is so hard on them, but Erin, their daughter-in-law, sends daily photos and daily updates on how Wade is doing.

**Congratulations Brian, Kim, Matthew and Erin and welcome Wade!**

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**May Birthdays**



- [1] Lenora Thornton, Sean Magee, Clara Boone
- [2] Matej Marlot
- [7] Jared Adams
- [10] Pat Howse, Carol Russell
- [13] Grace Druckenmiller, Annette Kiernan
- [16] Amy Brodar
- [19] Clem Young
- [23] Tara Young
- [24] Jacob Schaefer
- [25] Glenda Pongras
- [29] Vernet Spence-Brown
- [30] Thomas Hammaker, Matthew Hope, Trevor Gordon Hall, Lily Rothenberger

**May Anniversaries**



- [2] Thomas and Mariel Weiss
- [5] Kim Guiser and Asha George-Guiser
- [7] Henry Young and Andrea Archer
- [13] Michael and Erica Logar
- [14] Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- [22] Bill and Cathy Sullens
- [28] Christopher and Diane Hope
- [29] Vivek and Minita Hivale

**Financial Update – March 2020**  
from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through March, 2020 is outlined below.

- Income
  - Total open plate donations were \$5,271 and pledges were \$61,854 through March which is slightly lower than expected but parishioners have continued to send in pledges and donate online during the shut-down.
  - Total operating income was \$76,103 which included \$5,217 in rent from the Clinic.
  - Total income, including pass through/designated income of \$25,518, was \$101,620. Designated income included \$17,175 in Capital Campaign funds.
- Expense
  - Total operating expenses were \$74,515 resulting in an operating surplus of \$1,588. Operating Expenses included \$3,676 in repair bills to Trago Mechanical (building maintenance – boiler repair).
  - Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$85,149, were \$159,664. This included \$77,390 in Capital Campaign expenses.
  - St. Peter's reported an overall deficit of (\$58,044) when considering the Capital Campaign expenses that were covered entirely by previously raised Capital Campaign funds through March, 2020.

Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request and will be reported on at the annual meeting.

Account Balances (as of 3/31/20):

- Checking: \$48,020
- Savings/CDs: \$54,080
- Youth Group: \$2,245
- Pantry/Outreach: \$17,735
- Mission: \$736
- Building Maintenance: \$38,350
- Concert Series: \$4,505
- Capital Campaign: \$136,672
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$2,281
- Columbarium Project: \$3,063
- Petty Cash: \$200
  - **Total Cash: \$307,888**

**Thank you all for your continued and generous support of St. Peter's.**