

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,

The Twelve Days of Christmas end on Epiphany, January 6, in the western calendar. According to tradition, this was the day the Magi reached the manger where the Christ child was born. This day is significant in the Christian calendar, because it was the first time Christ was manifested to the Gentiles. In the Book of Common Prayer, we are called to celebrate this day as one of the major feasts of the church. Epiphany is usually celebrated on the Sunday closest to January 6th, however this year, we are breaking from our past and will celebrate it on the actual day. We hope to be joined by other Episcopal churches from our deanery, and the service will be at 7:30 PM.

We often hear people say: "I had an epiphany", meaning something just dawned on them, even though it had always been there. I remember our neighbor, a Portuguese-American who lived nearby, and came to greet us when we first moved to the area. Seeing that we were from India and wanting to connect with us, he said, "You know we (Portuguese) were the first ones who discovered India." I thought to myself: "Well, India was already there, and for you it was a discovery", however held my tongue. That which you understand or see as having an epiphany is not anything new, but it is new to you and so it is important and significant because that understanding or experience is going to change you from that point on.

Among the many epiphanies I've had over the years, one stands out the most in my mind. I wondered after I became an Episcopal priest not so long ago, why I had not become a cleric in any of the many churches I was associated with over the years? I could have easily become a cleric in the Mar Thoma Church of India, the Church of South India, the fundamentalist church in the South, Southern Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Church or the Congregational Church. However I became a priest in the Episcopal Church at the ripe old age of 52. My epiphany is that God was preparing me over the years to be a broad-minded person to become a priest in a church that is accepting of all people and respecting the dignity of every person. If I wasn't molded and prepared to be a priest in the Episcopal church, what would have been my relationship with my daughter who told us she was gay five years ago this Christmas? This is a huge epiphany for me. To know that God's love for me has been at work in shaping me, chipping away my rough edges, and softening me so that I can not only embrace my daughter but also bless her marriage to her partner in the Episcopal church.

I pray that this New Year is filled with epiphanies for all of us. May we discover God's love for us in new ways!

Blessings,

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*
Rev. Dennis Coleman, *Deacon*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Nicholas Lodico, *Organist/Choir Master*
Alex Smith, *Asst. Organist/Choir Master*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2015 John Magee
Retta Sparano
2016 Barbara Endrey
Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker
2017 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe

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What's Happening At St. Peter's January 2015

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Deacon's Roundtable

For starters please read Isaiah 6:1-9.

Isaiah saw a vision as he was praying in the Temple. The vision was a call from the Lord to minister to the Hebrew people. After much mental wrestling with God, Isaiah finally said, "Here am I, send me."

Isaiah was only one of thousands called from obscurity to serve God's purpose. Each of the persons called was and is a person of faith – those who have been involved in everyday routines of life and almost always a person of common stock – not necessarily one who is important or stands out.

Many say that the priesthood is the only way to serve God and humankind. Not so! Every Christian has a vocation: to serve the Lord. God expects us to use the gifts we possess. By prayer and hard work we perfect these gifts, so that they can be used for His glory in the service of all humankind. The way we do this is different for each of us.

Do we listen for a call to some special work for God? Do we want to hear this calling? If we refuse to listen, we surely will never know true fulfillment. God is very persistent; he will not cease until we have accepted his demands. Why? Because we belong to Him!

If we respond to God's wishes, He will see to it that we do not fail to accomplish His will. He will always be with us. The church – this church – needs people who will bring God into everyday life through their work and reliance upon God in prayer.

Have you ever thought, "What is God urging me to do with my life?" He may be calling you for some special work that you haven't even thought about yet.

Isaiah heard God ask: "Who can I send?" Isaiah put aside his own agenda, life, and reservations and answered: "Here am I, send me."

God is asking each one of us this question today. How will we answer? God asks everyone for some answer. Our only true happiness is to accept the call and rely on God to remain with us and to help us to do as well as we can. With God's grace, we will be amazed at how well we can do.

In Christ's Love,

Deacon Joe

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A Word From Deacon ||

The Light in Acolyte

The words below are copied from A Manual For Acolytes.

"The Lord is my Light."

What is the key function of an acolyte?

** To be an outward and very visible sign of Christ's light...to be reliable, attentive, expectant, worshipful, confident, caring, careful and joyful...to serve the Lord with gladness.*

** To serve the Lord in the gathering of God's people by assisting in the drama and actions of the liturgies of the Church.*

I write this as encouragement to all that may be called to this important ministry, Consider just how significant this work is. It is no small thing to be a visible sign of the light of Christ.

Acolytes lead us into worship with the cross and the candles that represent the light of the world.

The candles illuminate the Gospel as it is read amongst the people.

As a young choirboy at St. Peter's I was always impressed with the dignified way that the acolytes went about their work. This was a job that young boys aspired to, a job of significant stature that required reverence and training. It is an honor to serve in this way.

As our young people transition from school to college, the ranks of acolytes will need to be replenished.

Perhaps you, or your children, will be encouraged by Vernet Spence Brown to consider this. It is not difficult work, but it is work that requires training to do well, and with appropriate reverence.

It is a visible task, and the Church accepts the responsibility to provide training for those that are called to it. It requires the maturity to understand the importance of presenting yourself well and with graceful comportment for **every moment of the service.**

It means taking part in every word and song of the liturgy actively and attentively.

It requires a dignified posture as that visible light, when we all come forward to share the Eucharist. It is an opportunity for our young people to demonstrate that they can joyfully participate fully in the service.

If you are ready to join in with this ministry, please speak to Vernet, or say yes when she taps your shoulder.

Here are some final comments, again from A Manual For Acolytes:

You are a minister of the church who is called to serve God. Therefore, every action you take should be done respectfully and in a dignified manner; the goal is for the attention of the congregation to be on the liturgy and not on the ministers. Serving as an acolyte is a commitment of your time and talent to the Lord's service, which is greatly appreciated.

While Serving

✠ *Have a good time, with a feeling of reverence and dignity.*

✠ *Keep hands together when moving about the sanctuary.*

✠ *When crossing the chancel, pause and reverence the altar.*

Yours in Christ the Servant,

Deacon Dennis

Annual Reports for 2014



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 8, 2015. The following reports are needed for inclusion in the 2014 Annual Report.

Deadline: January 25th

- Accounting Warden/Treasurer
- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Capital Campaign
- Counters
- Deacon's Report - 2
- Fellowship - Kitchen
- Garden Guild
- Godly Play
- Greeter/Shepherd
- Lector/Chalicians
- Men's Group
- Missions
- Music/Choirs
- NM/Growth
- Outreach/Pantry
- Prayer Chain
- Property
- Rector's Report
- Assisting Clergy
- Senior Warden's Report
- Stewardship
- Ushers
- Worship Committee
- Youth Group

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"On Being"

With the New Year upon us, most of us are thinking about self-improvement – at least as long as our resolutions last. I wanted to share an easy path to self-improvement that I have thoroughly enjoyed. My radio alarm goes off on Sunday mornings the same time as every other day, but on Sunday mornings at 7:00 a.m.,

I enjoy listening to a radio program on National Public Radio entitled *On Being*.

On Being is a Peabody Award-winning public radio conversation and podcast, a Webby Award-winning website and online exploration. *On Being* opens up the animating questions at the center of human life: What does it mean to be human, and how do we want to live? It explores these questions in their richness and complexity in 21st-century lives and endeavors. It pursues wisdom and moral imagination as much as knowledge.

One recent guest that I enjoyed was James Martin, who is a Jesuit priest and editor at large of *America* magazine. His books include *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor and Laughter are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life*. He's followed the calling of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order, to "find God in all things" — and in 21st-century forms. The interview delves into Fr. Martin's way of being in the world, which is to discover the "spiritual exercises" St. Ignatius designed to be accessible to everyone more than six centuries ago.

I would invite you to visit the website at Onbeing.org and listen to the podcast of the interview. You will be interested to hear how Fr. Martin went from being a Wharton Business School graduate in finance and working for GE Capital in New York into his mid-20's and found his call to the priesthood one evening eating left-over spaghetti and watching television. You will enjoy his take on living a joyful life. Fr. Martin states if you are missing the joy in Christianity, you are missing the point. Something we can all strive for in the New Year.

Diane Hope
Stewardship Committee

What Is A Vestry?

There are nine (9) members on St. Peter's Vestry, serving a three (3) year term, with the option of running for reelection for a second term. Each year at the annual meeting in February, at least three (3) parishioners are nominated to fill the vacancy of the retiring members.

The Vestry meets with Father Koshy the 4th Wednesday of each month for two (2) hours to conduct the business of the parish. We open our meeting with check-in, prayer, and approval of previous meeting minutes. The meeting continues with Rector's report and discussion on a variety of agenda topics. We work hard, have fun together and are there to represent the congregation.

Each vestry member serves as a liaison to one of the ministry committees. Serving on the vestry is a way to share your time and talent and become involved in support of the mission and vision of St. Peter's Church.

All parishioners are welcome to attend vestry meetings. Please know you are welcome to join us and see how we work together for the parish. If you would like further information on what it means to be a vestry member, please speak to any of the current members or Father Koshy.



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January Birthdays



- [3] Sue Meadows, Phyllis Byndas
- [4] Madeline Tosco, Todd Jackson
- [5] William Tackett
- [8] Lana Brock, Noah Hatton
- [10] Joseph Vargo
- [11] D. J. Brock
- [16] John Andrews, Edwin Hartman
- [20] Daniel Hammaker
- [22] Michael Mitten
- [23] Brandon Rennie
- [27] Judi Hans
- [28] Courtenay Williams
- [29] Kacie Vargo, Stephanie Mitten,
Nick Martin

January highlights our strong connections with the people and the church in El Salvador and is quite amazing.

Please feel free to attend the monthly missions meetings if you are interested in supporting or participating in the El Salvador mission. The next mission trip is tentatively slated for July 11-18. If you are interested in participating in this 2015 trip, please "hop on board" with the group and meeting in January as it is most desirable to form this mission group early in the year to form group cohesiveness and understanding of the mission. The next meeting is slated for January 14th at 7PM.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me with questions or interest.

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Mission Update

Cindy Hammaker (610-933-3806; chammaker@verizon.net)

The missions committee met on December 10th and discussions focused on the exciting New Year ahead as we keep our connections strong with Cristosal. This mission with Cristosal in El Salvador is primarily a rich learning type of experience also involving deep connections with the people and the culture. For 2015, the committee is hoping to focus our learning on the immigration and human trafficking problem.



Fr. Koshy will be traveling to El Salvador, January 28-30 to be present for the consecration of the new Episcopal Bishop, David Alvarado. Koshy feels honored to be asked to stand as Bishop Daniel's representative. Koshy's visit in

Financial News
from Frank Rothenberger, Treasurer



The financial position of St. Peter's January through November, 2014 is outlined below.

Income

- Open plate donations are \$1K over budget at \$19K but pledges are still under budget by about \$8K.
- Other operating income is still over budget by about \$14K mainly because of \$12K in special donations.
- Operating income is closer to budget at \$238K (excludes special donations) but is still under budget by about \$4K, or 2%.
- Total income, including pass through income of \$59K, is \$308,874 through 11/30

Expense

- Operating expenses are in line with or under budget through November.
- Overall, total operating expenses of \$236K are about \$11K, or 4%, under budget.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$40K, are \$290,479.37

St. Peter's has an operating deficit of (\$8K), which is an improvement from last month, and overall has a surplus of \$20K, including pass through items, other income and special donations.

The operating deficit is a result of \$8K in pledges not yet collected through November and no fundraising income with a budgeted amount of \$2K.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances November 30, 2014

Checking: \$7,172
Savings: \$36,446
Certificates of Deposit: \$11,550
Youth Group: \$906
Pantry/Outreach: \$32,171
Mission: \$1,262
Building Maintenance: \$10,017
Concert Series: \$2,944

As we finish out 2014, we thank everybody for the generous contributions so far and encourage everybody to meet their pledges to ensure that St. Peter's is able to meet all of its operating expenses.

Your generous support of St. Peter's mission work and operating expenses is appreciated.

January Worship Service Participants

Acolytes

- 4 Brandon Rennie
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 6 7:30 p.m. Vernet Spence-Brown
Thomas Hammaker, James Hammaker
- 11 Natalia Tackett
Phoebe Foerster, Michael Logar
- 18 Libby Andrews
Sean Magee, Megan Magee
- 25 Vernet Spence-Brown
Cayenne Bengochea, Cartier Bengochea

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 4 Jack Susskind
- 11 Lisa Scott
- 18 Glenn Murray
- 25 Joan Grunwell

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 4 Robert and June Blauser
- 11 Pat Howse, Anne Andrews
- 18 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 25 Judi Hans, Anne Atlee

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 4 Todd Jackson
Lisa Scott *chaliceist*
- 11 Henry Young
- 18 Lisa Scott
- 25 Ron Gaugler

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 4 David Brennfleck, Sarah Ohansian
Brittany Alling *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller, Joyce Paster *chaliceists*
- 6 7:30 p.m. John Burkhardt, Joyce Paster
Joanne Arnold *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
- 11 Jan Wier, Michael Logar
Carol Russell *intercessor*
Joanne Arnold *chaliceist*
- 18 Marty Bloem, June Blauser
Katie Druckenmiller *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chaliceist*
- 25 Vernet Spence-Brown, Nicholas Lodico
Susan Mathews *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chaliceist*

Ushers

- 4 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 11 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 18 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 25 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett