

SAINT PETER'S NET

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

A Word From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Shortly after I decided to seek ordination, I went for a retreat at St. John the Evangelist monastery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Sitting next to Kennedy School of Government in Harvard Square on Memorial Drive, this monastery seems out of place for a quiet retreat. However, once I entered the compound, it felt like I was in a different world altogether. Registering myself at the desk, I was led to a room for guests, where I would be spending most of that weekend in silence. The room was bland with no décor to speak of, no radio or TV, it just had a single bed and a pillow, a desk and a chair in the narrow space with a window on the wall facing the grounds. Except when we gather for meals or for worship, guests or residents didn't see each other.

How am I going to spend a whole weekend without talking with someone? I wondered as an insurance salesman and investment peddler, how would I survive this ordeal of being quiet and with no external stimuli to pass my time. The thought of it made me wonder whether the whole thing was worth it. Kicking my shoes off, I lay down on the bed. Looking at the ceiling and lost in thought, I dozed off. Four hours later I woke up to realize that I had missed the evening worship in the chapel and was about to miss the supper. Feeling guilty for missing the worship but somehow making it for supper, I apologized to a brother next to me for violating the rule of observing silence. He simply said to me, "Koshy, God wanted you to have that rest."

It was at the height of my professional life, I experienced this pull to return to my original call to priesthood. Knocked off from my horse and fell flat on the ground, I began to listen, "Be still and know that I am God." This silent retreat was what I needed. It was at a time when I was pursuing my share of the American Dream. In our fast-paced culture coming to a stop and becoming still is difficult but very needed. For many of us it is not easy to take time off and go to a retreat like I did.

However, time for rest and stillness is already scheduled into our life by nature and by our religion. Just as our body needs adequate sleep our mind also needs sufficient stillness. If we are not intentional, it is easy to get caught up in the din of our surroundings, in our preoccupations, our unrealistic expectations of ourselves, and our wanting to keep up with the Joneses.

Recently I preached on the text in which Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice." How can we hear Jesus voice, if we don't listen? We listen by sitting still in mindfulness.

Our Episcopal worship services offer many opportunities for stillness, silence and mindfulness. I hope we take every opportunity we have in our worship services to be silent so that we can hear this God whom we worship

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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

Very 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

February 2017 Vincent Giancaterino
Julia Sharpe
Retta Sparano
February 2018 Frank Rothenberger
Judi Hans
Jan Wier
February 2019 Raymond Forester
Karen Martz
Brian Prato

How to contact St. Peter's

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What's Happening At St. Peter's May 2016

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and who wants to speak to us. In our hurry to get everything done within a prescribed time, we miss out on our chance to hear what God has to say to us. Let us remember the text that says, *“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”* I pray that we become more and more intentional about practicing quiet time.

Blessings,

Koshy

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Deacon’s Roundtable

“Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.”

(Zephaniah 1:7)

On April 17 at the Liturgy Committee Meeting it was brought to our attention that many of our church family are having difficulty getting settled and prepared to worship due to lack of silence before the service and lack of consideration for the choir during the anthem.

Fr. Hyatt and I are working on a small pamphlet that will be placed in the pews that will hopefully guide us to relative silence during the 15 minutes prior to the service starting. We have at our disposal the wonderful prayers in the Book of Common Prayer starting on page 814 and continuing through page 835. Prayer #64 on page 833 is recommended to help us prepare for worship. The prayer is as follows:

“O Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

A period of silence has been our practice after the sermon each Sunday to help us reflect on the words spoken from the pulpit. We also practice silence during the prayers of the people for emphasis and for folks to include their own petitions.

During the singing of the choir anthem we should be thinking about God’s presence and listening to what God is saying to us through the sung word.

Silence is golden and worshipful. Let us strive to be silent to help us prepare to do God’s work in the world.

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.

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Ascension Day ~ Thursday, May 5th



40 days after the Festival of Easter the Church celebrates Ascension Day. As Christ ascended into heaven, we are left with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. 10 days following Ascension Day we celebrate Pentecost, the day the Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ascension Day, much like Ash Wednesday is a feast that falls on a weekday and has lost the importance that it deserves.

The Ascension is an important part in the life and ministry of Jesus, a day that we should celebrate and remember with great joy. On Thursday, May 5th, at 7:30 p.m. we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension at **Christ Church, Old Swedes**. We hope you will join us for this festive occasion, and to celebrate our great commission.

If you would like to place flowers, contact the Parish Office, Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon, at 610-933-2195 to see if a particular date is open.

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Branding Committee



Celebrate our New Members



On Sunday, May 22nd at the 10:00 service, the New Member/Growth Committee will be hosting a celebration to recognize our newest members. We will have a special coffee hour and our newcomers will receive a blessing. If you have joined Saint Peter's within the past year and would like to be recognized, please contact Judi Hans at 610-327-4653 or JudithHans@comcast.net.

The Branding Committee has been meeting regularly since the early fall of 2015 and we are getting near the completion of our work. The parish survey from late winter revealed some interesting information and trends concerning the people of Saint Peter's. Charts of the results were available at the parish meeting and will soon be on display in the Smith Fellowship room. Some interesting facts are as follows:

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Sponsorship of Altar Flowers



Did you know that you can place Sunday Altar Flowers? There are quite a few "open" Sunday's on our list and flowers can be placed in thanksgiving, i.e. birthdays, anniversaries or in memory of a loved one. Our "in house" florist, Ron Druckenmiller, arranges the flowers and will bill you directly. The placements can be made "one-time-only" or on an annual basis and the current cost is \$58 for the two Altar arrangements.

- 10% of our congregation have been members for one year or less, 32% of our parishioners have been members for one to five years, 13% have been members five to ten years, and 45% have been members for ten or more years. The trend suggests that our members have a high degree of loyalty by their sustained membership, but membership is lower in the five to ten year group, the "gap years." This may suggest that families with young children may not been joining churches.
- 64% of the respondents were Episcopalian prior to becoming a member of Saint Peter's, while 17% were previously Roman Catholic.
- The mission of Saint Peter's is clear to 97% of its members.
- 99% of our members feel as though the church cares for them.
- When asked what is most important when choosing a faith community, it was nearly a three way tie among Mission/Community Outreach, Fellowship, and Liturgy. This was very important to the Branding Committee to define who we are.

The survey to the community outside of the church was recently sent to local civic, church, and business leaders to learn about their attitudes concerning Saint Peter's. More information will be forthcoming when the results are tabulated.

Committee members include the Reverend David Hyatt, Kay Hooper, Caitlin Rothenberger, Iris Blanche, Judith Hans, Annette Kiernan, Brian Prato. Our consultant is Peter Urscheler, Senior Marketing Consultant from 235 Bridge Phoenixville.

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El Salvador Mission News

Cindy Hamaker 610-933-3806; chammaker@verizon.net

The Mission Committee wants to extend a warm thank for your generous Dollar a Day Campaign donations that will support St. Peter's vital mission with Cristosal in El Salvador. It is wonderful to see this support growing yearly which is a key factor in making this mission such a success!

The mission trip is slated for this summer during Aug 10-17th. Our mission group will be participating with Cristosal's School of Global Engagement and will be focusing on the impact of environmental/ecological changes on the poor. Emphasis will be on employing the liberation theology approach to aiding those struggling with the often devastating environmental crises that they face.

There is an important date and fun night out to mark on your calendars! – June 11th, 6:00 p.m. at the church there will be an Indian dinner fundraiser catered by Aman's Indian Bistro. A full course tasty meal will be provided with BYOB and cost is \$25 per person. Proceeds from the event will help to support mission travel expenses. So, we're hoping for a good turnout for this enjoyable event!

Thank you again for all of your support of this great mission that reaches beyond our borders to be present as we love and serve those in need!

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May Birthdays



- [1] Lenora Thornton, Sean Magee, Clara Boone
- [9] Emily Bindschusz
- [10] Pat Howse, Carol Russell
- [13] Grace Druckenmiller
- [16] Amy Brodar
- [19] Clem Young, Eric Phillips
- [21] Lisa Schiavone
- [22] Joseph Tosco
- [23] Tara Young
- [24] Jacob Schaefer
- [26] Terri Coleman
- [28] Susan Mathews
- [29] Vernet Spence-Brown
- [30] Thomas Hamaker, Matthew Hope

May Anniversaries



- [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
Koshy and Susan Mathews
- [29] Vivek and Minita Hivale

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Financial Update – March, 2016

Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through March, 2016 is outlined below.

- **Income**
 - Total open plate donations through March were \$6,637 which is about \$2K in excess of budget and pledges were \$60,464 which is on pace with budget. Open plate donations in excess of budget are reflective of new member attendance. Although total pledge income was on pace with budget, there was about a \$6K shortfall in the first quarter for individual pledges.
 - Easter offering was \$1,456 which falls about \$1K short of the budgeted amount.
 - Total operating income was \$73,317 after removal of a \$3,000 matching grant from the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation which has been deposited in the 2016 Capital Campaign account. Rental income of \$3,090 from the Clinic was removed from operating income because it is deposited directly into the maintenance savings fund.
 - Total income, including pass-thru income of \$11,368, was \$90,775.
- **Expense**
 - Total operating expenses were \$67,396 which were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$5,921.
 - Operating expenses continue to be about \$3K under budget through March.
 - It should be noted that there are pending repairs to the Clinic building of about \$12K and the expenses will be covered by funds in the maintenance savings account.
 - Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$9,724, were \$77,119 through March.
- St. Peter's reported net income of \$13,792 through March.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 3/31/16):

- Checking: \$16,388
- Savings: \$39,022
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$17,770
- Mission: \$3,419
- Building Maintenance: \$22,718
- Concert Series: \$3,162
- NEW Capital Campaign: \$33,040
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$148,981**

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

May Worship Service Participants

Acolytes

- 1 Ryan Sutter
Sean Magee, Emma Martz
- 8 James Hammaker
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 15 Libby Andrews
Phoebe Foerster, Sydney Alling,
Brandon Rennie, Mali Warren
- 22 James Hammaker
Michael Logar, Vernet Spence-Brown
- 29 Ryan Sutter
Colin Parker, Katie Parker

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

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

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 1 Cindy Giancaterino, Kim Thornton
- 8 Marva Young, Judi Hans
- 15 Pat Howse, Anne Andrews
- 22 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 29 Lady Rennie, Anne Atlee

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 1 Lisa Scott
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 8 Henry Young
- 15 Ron Gaugler
- 22 Henry Young
- 29 Jack Susskind

Ushers

- 1 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 8 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 15 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 22 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
- 29 John Andrews, Mark Hammaker

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 1 Jan Wier, David Brennfleck
Mali Warren *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
Vernet Spence Brown *chalicist*
- 8 Joyce Paster, Curt Quaintance
David Brennfleck *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 15 Retta Sparano, Marty Bloem
Katie Druckenmiller *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
- 22 Family Service: Lectors TBD
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 29 Shelly Brennfleck, Vernet Spence-Brown
Beverly Burkhardt *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalicist*

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Envelopes ??



Do YOU have a box of 2016 Giving Envelopes? PLEASE contact the parish office either by phone or email and a box will be prepared for you.