

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,

It is great to be back at St. Peter's with you all. While vacation was good, and it offered us some quality time with my aging mom, our siblings and other relatives, the pace was rather hectic. Going home to India used to be a relaxing experience as soon as you hit the ground. Now it takes a while to get used to the frenetic pace of life there to be able to relax and reflect. One evening I went out for a walk to say hello to folks in my old neighborhood to find it has completely changed. New buildings, strip malls and houses have replaced the old ones. The two-lane narrow road, which I used to walk to school, is now swallowed up by a new 72 foot-wide highway, completely changing the landscape of my idyllic village. My old friends are not there anymore, some have moved away and some have died. I didn't meet a single person I knew during my walk. It felt like I was a stranger in my own place. Suffice to say, I didn't complete my usual round. So it is good to be back home.

Vacation also gave me a brief respite from the nastiness of this year's presidential election. It is hard to fathom the deep divide among the electorate. However, I hope that the nastiness of the election process won't deter us from exercising our sacred duty to vote. As a church I hope we can engage our people listening to each other rather than shouting at each other. Many issues we care about as a church are at stake in this election. Regardless of where we stand on issues, I hope we will find a way to bridge our differences and work together as one people again.

November is the month when we as a nation celebrate the Day of Thanksgiving. While I am happy that we set apart a day for thanksgiving, let us not forget that for us, as Christians, every day is a day of thanksgiving. We are thankful to God for our very existence. Among the many blessings, we also thank God for our church and its many ministries and missions. Stewardship Committee has designated November 13th as the ingathering Sunday, the day we, as a church, gather all the first fruits of our labor in pledges for the work and mission of our church. When we make these pledges of time, talent and treasure to the church, we are acknowledging that all that we are and all that we have is a gift from God. Our pledges are our personal statements of faith. Pledging is different from fundraising. Pledging is giving to church in grateful response to the gospel.

November is also the month when the new church year begins with the first advent that sets off the holiday season. There is something reassuring about the cyclical nature of our calendar. While time is linear it is also cyclical; for every ending there is new beginning.

Let us be assured of God's loving and unchanging presence in our lives even as we go through periods of unsettling changes and divisions in our day-to-day world.

With much love and peace, *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

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

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

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November 2016

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Deacon's Roundtable

As we mentioned last month, there are four sets of mysteries in the Rosary each with five mysteries representing important incidents in the life of Jesus and his mother Mary. They are as follows:

Joyful Mysteries: The Annunciation, The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, The Nativity, The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

Luminous Mysteries: The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, The Wedding Feast at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, The Transfiguration, and The Institution of the Eucharist.

Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, and The Crucifixion.

Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Decent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption of Mary into Heaven, and The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven.

The Rosary begins with a recitation of the Apostles Creed, The Lord's Prayer and three Hail Mary's for the increase of Faith, Hope, and Love. The body of the Rosary consists of recited prayers: The Lord's Prayer, ten Hail Mary's and The Glory Be to the Father. While reciting the Hail Mary's one is to meditate on the Mystery at hand, for example The Annunciation. When the five mysteries have been completed the closing prayer is the Salve Regina or Hail Holy Queen. The Mysteries of the Rosary are divided up during the week so that all the Mysteries are recited with special recitations for special days.

If anyone would like to know more about this method of prayer and meditation, I would be happy to spend time with you or a small group to go into greater detail. I have found this method of prayer to be very moving for me, especially during trying times because it reminds me that our Lord and His Blessed

Mother also had trying experiences in their lives and how they put their trust in God.

I pray Jesus will bless each of us as we give special thanks this month for each other, our families and our freedom to worship the one true God in our own way.

Deacon Joe

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Daylight Savings Time Ends



Turn all clocks BACK 1 hour before retiring on Saturday, November 5th.

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Day by Day



The November-December-January issue of **Day by Day** [Forward] is available in the Narthex Tract Rack

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Candle Fundraiser



St. Peter's kicked off its annual fundraiser to support the general operating budget on October 16th, running through November 13th. This year we are selling Yankee Candles both through a catalog and online. We have a big goal and are hoping that as a group we can sell at least

\$2,500 in candles. We can do it! To order online, go to the Yankee Candle web site: www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter our group number: 990098112. Please share the information about ordering online with your friends and family. Online orders will be shipped directly to the person placing the order so even friends and family from far away can participate. Catalogs are available from Caitlin Rothenberger, if you would like one or if you have any questions, please be sure to reach out to her. She can be contacted at caitlin.rothenberger@gmail.com.

spiked to 60 to 70 meals per lunch. In addition to filling a need in our neighborhood, we also have a good time in cooking, packaging, and serving. It is a pleasure and a heartwarming experience to get to know some of the clients we serve. If you can spare some time around noon on Friday, please join us in serving our neighbors and friends. For more information, email ashleyjetjaden@gmail.com or simply show up!!

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Phoenixville Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 23, 2016 – 7:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
Main Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: The Rev. Mark Young, of the First Methodist Church

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Friday Community Lunch Program



Our church is the host of the daily community lunch program in Phoenixville; Saint Peter's serves lunch to the community every Friday at noon. The number of needed meals has recently

Environmental Ministry at St. Peter's



A new environmental ministry is forming at Saint Peter's Church and you are invited to join! Initial ideas are that the ministry will have a mission to foster an appreciation for God's creation, live lighter in our homes and at church, and finally to partner with like-minded groups and organizations in the Phoenixville community to enhance and share our ideas. If you have a passion for conservation and our outdoor world, please consider joining the committee to help spearhead the mission. Additionally, if you know of anyone else who might be willing to join, please let us know.

Our first meeting will be held at St. Peter's on Monday, November 14th at 7:00 PM. We will discuss ideas for our mission and those that have been brought to the table by our wonderful missionaries, who attended the Cristosal program on climate change this summer. The committee will welcome any and all creative ideas you might have to make this mission one that everyone at St. Peter's family can embrace.

For more information, please contact Jolie Chylack by phone: [610.792.8860](tel:610.792.8860) or by email: jchylack@msn.com

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Financial Update – September, 2016

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- **Income**

- Total open plate donations through September were \$20,338 which is about \$6K in excess of budget. This surplus continues to cover a shortfall in pledge income that is \$174,441 through 9/30/16 and is about \$6K under budget.
 - Pledges continue to come in under budget and are slow for the year.
- Total operating income was \$206,888 after removal of pass-through income and other non-operational income totaling \$15,777. Operating income remains close to budget of \$202K primarily because of the increased open plate income.
- Total income, including pass-thru income of \$36K, was \$258,981.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$202,730 after removal of pass-through expenses and other non-operation expense totaling \$15,704. This is close to total budgeted expenses of \$200,712.
 - Operating expenses through September were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$4,158.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$34K, were \$257,440 through September.

Total expenses were sufficiently covered by total income with a surplus of \$1,824.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 9/30/16):

- Checking: \$6,310
- Savings: \$39,051
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$14,234
- Mission: \$3,833
- Building Maintenance: \$21,884
- Concert Series: \$3,056
- NEW Capital Campaign: \$33,107
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$134,937**

**Thank you all for your continued and generous support of St. Peter's.
Please consider bringing your pledges current.**

St. Peter's Food Pantry

Doreen Penczer



As I was putting away the donations from the pantry last week I was overcome by the generosity from this parish. It is simply amazing, I wish there were more words than just THANK YOU for your continued support. I am so proud to be a member of this wonderful parish.

We also have some amazingly faithful volunteers, but could use a few more. Perhaps some of you have thought about volunteering but wonder what it involves.

Let me describe a typical Saturday:

8:00 a.m. Volunteers arrive to bag bread we receive from Panera bread. We have volunteers who pick up the bread at 9 p.m. on Friday evenings. (We could use a couple more volunteers to do that). When this is completed, we start to bag fresh produce for distribution.

8:15 a.m. Scouts arrive to gather food to be taken to St. Peter's Place. We help the scouts fill bags, get the fresh produce for them and then send them off with a prayer and full carts of food.

9:00 a.m. We begin to escort folks through the pantry. They have filled out a "menu" and we help them with their selections. We have a team who gives them milk, eggs and a meat. We have another team who gives out the fresh produce. We have volunteers who help folks out with their food and also stock the shelves as needed.

As you can see, the volunteers are kept busy. If you can't come as early as 8:00 a.m. but could come around 10:00 a.m., we can use help to stock the shelves or to help the breakfast team clean up. If any of this seems of interest please come and give it a try, you will come away with a true feeling of serving God. Contact Gary Russell, grussell-21@hotmail.com or Doreen Penczer penczer@comcast.net for more information.

Another way you can serve the pantry for the upcoming holidays is to sponsor a food drive. It doesn't have to be a big one. If you are having a party, ask your guests to bring a non-perishable item for the pantry as "admission". If you are a member of a book club, bridge club, knitting club, parent club or your child's sports team or just your neighborhood get-together having a holiday party do the same thing. Every donation is greatly appreciated. If you have a food drive and need pick-up please let us know.

God Bless you all,

Your faithful pantry

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Mission Update

Cindy Hammaker chammaker1@gmail.com



St. Peter's impact has definitely been felt through our great works and connections with Cristosal. In late September, the missions committee hosted Noah Bullock and Hannah Perls (director and assistant) to a very eventful week. There was a wonderful "Friendraiser" event at the Logar's house with attendees from St. Peter's, the community, and other churches in the diocese. So, thank you to the Logars for hosting that great event! The mission group also facilitated other social/speaking engagements for Noah and Hannah throughout the weekend. The goal with these events was to spread awareness throughout the Diocese especially of forced displacement in Central America and to highlight Cristosal's amazing efforts to mitigate human suffering through human rights protection and refugee crisis intervention models. You can learn more about Cristosal by going to www.cristosal.org I am very happy to report that our efforts really paid off with \$12,700 that was raised to directly support Cristosal's work! Also, much enthusiasm was generated throughout the diocese for continuing to support Cristosal, and

Noah and Hannah were fueled with renewed energy in their commitment and drive to serve, protect and empower those suffering from social injustices in Central America.

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2016 Advent Tree



November 27th through December 18th

Recipient: Ann’s Heart Code Blue Ministry

The Code Blue Ministry of Phoenixville provides a cold weather, overnight center for men, women and children in accordance with Chester County’s definition of Code Blue that is date defined: mid-November to mid-April. The intent is to provide a place to stay for the night for anyone who is in need. Our guests are welcome as long as they act in a manner that allows us to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

The program is provided from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., seven days a week, with one paid staff member and two volunteers per shift each night. With the use of volunteers to support shift coverage, we aim to have at least one man and one woman on duty at all times, especially when there are female guests or children. During a severe weather event the center may remain open throughout the day in order that guests may have a safe and warm place to shelter from the storm.

Please look for upcoming bulletin inserts later in November for a list of items that we can help provide.

Previous recipients:

- Good Samaritan Shelter: 2009, 2012, 2013;
- Seaman’s Church Institute: 2014; The Clinic: 2010, 2015; Mom’s House: 2011

Who’s Who

Steve and Jan Eddowes

Jan grew up in Fort Washington, attended Trinity Church, Ambler, and Gwynedd Mercy College as a nursing student and became an RN. She is now a Realtor with Bonaventure Realty in Collegeville.

Steve grew up in a staunch Methodist family in Gwynedd Valley, attended Germantown Academy, joining the Air Force upon graduation. Many years later, Steve completed college courses and graduated with a degree in Business and Marketing. Steve, now retired, was a photojournalist for the Philadelphia Inquirer as well as a Realtor.

Steve and Jan met while volunteering at the Ambler Ambulance Association. Jan was a nursing student when Fr. Schultz, of Trinity Church, had made a plea for help and Jan’s mother thought it a good idea for her to use her nursing skills at the Ambulance Association. They were married at Trinity Church and have two daughters, Karen Tosco and Annette Kiernan and have 6 grandchildren.

While at Trinity Church, they were involved in many activities: Altar Guild, choir, Women of Trinity, Search Committee, hospitality, planning/executing annual events: rummage sale, Christmas Bazar and the Carnival of Antiques. After Trinity was destroyed by fire in June of 1986 they became members of the Organ and Stained Glass Committees to aid in the rebuilding of the church.

Steve and Jan share a love of antiques. Steve’s wish list includes the desire to own an antique fire truck and to travel through Europe to listen to all the organs in various churches and cathedrals.

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Stewardship Moment – 10/2/16

Frank Rothenberger

I think of Stewardship in the context of what I can personally do to sustain St. Peter's for the future with time, talent and treasure. I especially think of this for our daughter, Charlotte, to make sure she is able to experience the same St. Peter's that we all know and love.

At a recent Stewardship Committee meeting, Father Koshy mentioned that we often think of children as the future but he noted that the future is now. I took this to mean that our actions now are critical in shaping what happens in the future. St. Peter's is a small church that has a big impact, both in the experience it provides its members and its outward mission work in the greater community. The growing number of members and accomplishments of St. Peter's mission work is proof that we are a thriving parish. Despite the success, there are challenges that St. Peter's faces. The budget is not yet finalized but there are high ambitions to build on all of the great mission work and youth programming that is going on at St. Peter's right now. There is also a need to increase spending on cleaning and maintenance because of the increased use of the church. Right now, the anticipated expenses for 2017 are currently around \$300K which would require an 8-10% increase in pledges compared to last year to produce a breakeven budget, and a breakeven is the goal; last year total pledges were \$240K and an 8-10% increase would be around \$260K. Another critical challenge the church faces is that over 40% of its pledges come from only 3 families; this represents a concentration risk. These two challenges can be met with small increases from members already pledging as well as pledges from members that are new to the church or members that may have not considered pledging in the past.

I ask that you think about this year's stewardship campaign in this context when considering your pledge and please provide your pledge cards as soon as possible to assist in the budget process. St. Peter's parishioners are very

generous and give a lot already with time, talent and treasure and we appreciate all you do.

I also want to provide a note about Realm, which is a new database the Church is using. The database allows members to have a page with information that helps maintain information on the parish. It will allow the office to track pledges easier and the giving statements for last quarter will be generated with the new system; you will notice this when you receive your giving statements. There may be an error on the statement with your address but this will be corrected in this quarter. Realm also allows parishioners to give online with either one-time donations or recurring payments. This format is similar to options you probably already utilize elsewhere. I will be available after the service with my laptop if anybody is interested in assistance with looking at the Realm site or signing up.

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Stewardship Moment – 10/9/16

Leo Guen

I am a third generation Chinese-American, born near Boston. Each of my parents spent 25 years doing community service in Boston Chinatown, because while growing up, they were helped by others, and they wanted to give back.

My father's family was very poor. They ran a Chinese hand laundry in Portland, Maine. All 8 children worked in the laundry. Each had age-appropriate tasks, the youngest emptying pockets, the oldest doing the ironing. When their father died from a WWI wound, my grandmother, Toy Len Goon, declined to go on public assistance – she would run the laundry herself. The social worker admired this, saying: "It is wonderful to see people willing to work with their hands rather than looking for a hand out."

My mother grew up in Boston Chinatown where her father had a Chinese herbal pharmacy and

was a civic leader in Chinatown, including fundraising for the Chinese school. But both my mother's parents died young. So my mother and her 5 siblings, aged 9 to 1 years old, were raised in China by their stepmother, before coming back to the US to go to college after WWII. She and her hard-working siblings were given a hand up by distant relatives, Catholic nuns, government programs and complete strangers. This is why I strongly believe in trying to make life better for immigrants and reaching out to those who need a helping hand.

I joined St. Peter's 16 months ago. What I love about St Peters is the spirit of the congregants and the clergy who are open-minded, diverse and inclusive, and active in community service and education. St. Peter's is small enough that it can feel like family where you can know most of the people, and where you can make a difference.

You can make a difference with the 3 T's --- your Time, Talent and Treasure. First, Treasure...We are very fortunate to have Koshy and his great leadership, a beautiful building, wonderful people, and well-run programs in worship, education, missions, and community service. Things are going so well that we're planning to expand these programs, and take better care of our building, with a total budget of \$300,000 (\$260,000 of that in pledges). This means we need to raise \$24,000 more than last year. Half of this increase (\$12,000) is for programs and half is for building maintenance. Here at St Peters, we have 3 families who contribute more than 40% of all our pledges. So in order for "Many hands make light work" to come true, we need two things:

- For all of us *except the top 3 givers* to give our fair share and increase our giving by 10%.
- For those who have not pledged --- please consider making a pledge, so that the program leaders can better plan and manage their programs. Only pledges are counted in the budget, so if you continue to give, you will make your dollars go further by communicating your giving intentions.

Personally, I am planning on increasing my pledge by 100%. Why? Because I strongly believe in community service, education, outreach and the values of this church.

Turning to Time and Talent... Don't underestimate yourself. You will be amazed how things you take for granted about yourself, things you do so naturally, things you are interested in are seen as special by others, and highly appreciated. There are many opportunities to use your Time and Talent at St. Peter's...I sing in the choir, I trim the front bushes and do weeding, I am the new chair of the Communications committee, and I'm on the Stewardship committee.

Sherry and I were honored to dance downstairs at Koshy 10th anniversary, and we'll dance again at the Diversity In Action multi-cultural fair on November 12th. Last January, I spent an evening at the Code Blue shelter across the street, inspired by Deacon Dennis. I will definitely do that again. Last Friday, Sherry and I cooked Chinese fried rice and sautéed vegetables for St. Mary's Shelter on Emmett Street. They were so appreciative. We will definitely do this again.

I encourage you to spend some quiet time being grateful for your Talents, and see if you can find an opportunity to use those Talents at St. Peter's.

Back to Treasure...Giving money to the church is a very personal decision, between you and God. Giving is a test of your trust in God, part of building your faith. It's also trust in yourself, trusting that you can handle whatever God sends your way. As with everything, we do our best when we do it with God.

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November Celebrations

Birthdays



- [2] Phil Howse, Ryan Sutter, Logan Henry
- [4] Corey Young, Coleman Nagy
- [6] Cynthia Ciancaterino
- [8] Olivia Dorais, Raegan Dorais
- [9] James Hammaker
- [11] Vincent Phillips
- [14] Courtney Logar, Rowan Carney
- [24] Kristen Craig
- [27] Greg Schiele
- [28] Joe Dietz
- [29] Retta Sparano, Julia Sharpe
- [30] Megan Magee

Anniversaries



- [2] Patrick and Jan Wier
- [3] Steve De Prado and Natalie Famous
- [12] Peter and Elizabeth Fifer
- [24] Don and Judi Hans

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November Worship Participants

Acolytes

- 6 Vernet Spence-Brown, Brandon Rennie
Mali Warren, Sean Magee
- 13 Libby Andrews
Emma Martz, Sydney Alling
- 20 Ryan Sutter
Phoebe Foerster, Trey Foerster
- 27 James Hammaker
Katie Parker, Colin Parker

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 6 Glenn Murray
- 13 Lisa Scott
- 20 Joan Grunwell
- 27 Jack Susskind

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 6 Henry Young; Lou Steffenhagen *chaliceist*
- 13 Anne Holbrook
- 20 Lisa Scott
- 27 Lou Steffenhagen

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 6 Pat Howse, Anne Andrews
- 13 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 20 Anne Atlee, Lady Rennie
- 27 Judi Hans, Anne Andrews

Ushers

- 6 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 13 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 20 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 27 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 6 Karen Martz, Ron Druckenmiller
Carol Russell *intercessions*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
Joyce Paster *chaliceist*
- 13 Kent Wenger, Leo Guen
Phoebe Foerster *intercessions*
Ron Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
- 20 Joyce Paster, Susan Mathews
David Brennfleck *intercessions*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
- 27 Retta Sparano, Georgette Druckenmiller
Ron Druckenmiller *intercessions*
Carol Russell *chaliceist*

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A Prayer of Thanksgiving BCP

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in the season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.