

# 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,

As I write to you on this eleventh anniversary of our joint ministry here at St. Peter's, it brings back memories of our early days together. I remember my installation service on January 25, 2006, a frigid cold Wednesday evening, just a couple days after Susan and I came to Phoenixville. Everything was new and unfamiliar. One thing I remember vividly though was the excitement of the congregation in having us here and we clearly felt the love and welcome the church had for us. The white stole with names of the congregation printed on it given to me that day symbolized your love for me. I thank God for each and every one of you who were here at that time and all those who have since joined us in this beautiful journey together in God's ministry and mission and I pray that God would continue to bless us as we journey on into God's future for us.

On February 12th we will gather for our annual meeting. As we do so, I want you all to know that we are growing in numbers and in faith like the early church. St. Peter's footprint in the community continues to grow and we are known as a church that cares and feeds. We continue to look for ways to be increasingly relevant and effective in God's ministry and mission in our community and elsewhere. We believe that God has called us into community to serve people and to live out the values of our faith. We do so now in an increasingly difficult period in the history of our country.

Our baptismal covenant calls us to *seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as we love ourselves and to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.* However, these basic tenets of our faith are now being challenged by some in positions of power. Faithfully and courageously traversing through this challenging environment by witnessing the love of God to the often-overlooked, invisible and vulnerable neighbors in our community is our new stations of the cross, our pilgrimage. Do we find ourselves standing in solidarity with those who are harassed, ridiculed, threatened and vilified? Can our neighbors find a sanctuary among us and within our church?

In this post-truth world we are being ushered into, the only truth that can hold on its own and can overcome all the propaganda and "alternative-facts" is the truth of Jesus Christ, the lynchpin of our faith. Going forward, our ministry and mission are going to be shaped by our willingness to resist the onslaught against everything we believe to be true, good, decent, just and righteous.

Let us pray that God would gift us with a pure and discerning heart, and shine God's light on the path going forward.

With much love and prayers,

*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, *Music Director*  
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

### How to contact St. Peter's

**Office:** 610-933-2195

**Email:** [saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com)

**Web site:** [www.saintpeterschurch.net](http://www.saintpeterschurch.net)

## What's Happening At St. Peter's February 2017

### Table of Contents

p. 1 From the Rector  
p. 2 Deacon's Roundtable  
Annual Meeting  
Day by Day  
February Concert  
p. 3 Environmental Ministry  
Valentine's Message  
p. 4 Mission News  
Who's New  
p. 5 February Birthdays  
February Worship Participants

## Deacon's Roundtable

I have been studying and meditating on St. Paul's epistles to Titus and Timothy. These epistles were written somewhere between 60 and 65 A.D., possibly from the city of Nicopolis on the western coast of Greece where Paul may have sought shelter from winter storms while traveling in the area.

These letters remain fresh for us in our day. St. Paul urges Timothy and Titus to keep their fellow Christians focused on what is important—on the gospel. He wrote about the kind of Christian living that is supposed to go along with Christian living. Paul offered himself as an example of God's mercy and of Christian faithfulness. All of this is as important to us as it was to Titus and Timothy.

We have our own ways of losing sight of the gospel. As we are conducting parish life—giving religious education, visiting the sick, planning social events—it is easy to talk about “fostering gospel values” while forgetting the gospel.

Paul stresses that we must shape our lives to spread the gospel. He wants Christians to pay attention to how they are coming across to other people. They should conduct themselves in ways that signal to people around them that Christianity helps to make you a better person—a better husband and father, wife and mother, relative, worker, citizen. The “good deeds” that people admired have not completely changed. People today, just like people in Paul's time, find honesty, service to others, marital love, and social responsibility attractive.

So, the issue that Paul dealt with in these letters presses on us. Let us do some reflecting as we continue our lives together as the people of St. Peter's and this great nation of ours. Do our lives offer evidence to the people around us that Christianity helps make individuals, families, and groups of people good? Are we willing to make difficult choices so that there will be evidence of the gospel in our lives? Do we let God's power penetrate our lives?

I pray that God's light will shine in us always.

*Deacon Joe*

§ § § § §

## February 12 - One Service Only ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Please plan to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 12. There will be one service that day at 10:00 AM. Fr. Koshy will deliver his Rector's report from the pulpit and other significant reports will be given verbally during the service. The vestry will be available for questions during coffee hour which follows the meeting.

§ § § § §

## DAY by DAY

The February/March/April issue of DAY by DAY [Forward] may be found in the Narthex Tract Rack.

§ § § § §

## St. Peter's Concert Series Presents Principally Harps - February 26 - 4:00 pm



Mindy Cutcher and Janet Witman

“Principally Harps!” blends the talents and experiences of two of America's finest harpists

in presentations of virtuosity, distinct style and impeccable ensemble. “Principally Harps!” offers audiences a unique opportunity to see and hear concert grand harps on center stage, as opposed to “hidden” among the instruments in an orchestra. Mindy Cutcher and Janet Witman are masters of their instruments, showcasing their harps with exciting repertoire and demonstrating the uniqueness of pedal harps with the varied sound effects that can be produced from them. Their programs are accessible to young and old; experienced and casual concert goers.

§ § § § §

## Update: Environmental Ministry



Living lighter at home, living lighter at Saint Peter’s, and living lighter in our community: these are the themes of the Environmental Ministry Committee at our church, and we hope you will join us in embracing them!

On Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> a group of enthusiastic members of Saint Peter’s and the Phoenixville community gathered to brainstorm ways we can accomplish the aforementioned mission. To begin, we would like to ask our congregation to make three individual commitments called “Earth Promises” to live lighter in the coming year, in our daily lives. The commitments can be simple promises, such as using reusable rather than plastic bags when shopping, refraining from buying bottled water, or eating vegetarian one day each week. Or, the promises can be larger, such as committing to composting all vegetable waste, replacing an old appliance with a new energy star brand, or commuting by bike, foot or carpool.

To participate in this important activity aimed at reducing our congregation’s carbon footprint, please fill out an “Earth Promise” card, located

to your right when you enter Church through the red doors in the coming weeks. Once compiled, the cards will be arranged in an earth-shaped mural mosaic that will be displayed downstairs to remind our church family of our goals. If you are having problems thinking of commitments that seem right for you or your family, consider some of those brainstormed, by our committee:

- Perform a home energy audit
- Direct your energy bill expenditures toward wind power one day per week
- Purchase a community garden plot
- Make a continuous effort to buy as many whole foods (unpackaged) as possible
- Reduce consumption of lamb, beef, cheese
- Install a rain barrel
- Set back your thermostat
- Take five-minute showers
- Replace traditional light bulbs with LEDs
- Use “green” cleaning supplies
- Spend time hiking or biking on the SRT
- Plant a native garden
- Join the environmental committee at St. Peter’s!

For more information, please contact Jolie Chylack at [jchylack@hotmail.com](mailto:jchylack@hotmail.com)

§ § § § §

## A Valentine’s Day Message



While the history of commemorating St. Valentine’s Day is somewhat unclear, some people attribute this celebratory day to various martyrs with the name Valentine while others suggest it comes from the tradition of birds finding mates around this time of year.

Whatever the origin, what we do know is that it is great to have the opportunity, during bleak mid-winter, to say a special “I love you” to a spouse, a child or a friend. Here at St. Peter’s Church, there are many opportunities to show our love for those beyond our immediate circle

of family members and close friends by making contributions to the food pantry, volunteering at the soup kitchen, or spending a few hours at the Code Blue Shelter during cold winter nights. Offering these gifts of love to friends, known and unknown, is a wonderful way to make an important difference to those who may feel forgotten or unloved.

And, on this Valentine’s Day your friends who serve on the Stewardship Committee at St. Peter’s Church, send to each of you, a message of love and thanks for your recent pledges of treasure, talent and time which play such a great role in making this church a welcoming place to everyone who enters the doors.

§ § § § §

### Mission News

Cindy Hammaker



The Mission Committee continues to meet monthly with focus and discussions on maintaining our support for Cristosal as they strive to serve those struggling in El Salvador and Central America.

There is interest in forming a group to travel with Cristosal’s School of Global Engagement this summer with the topic of focus on forced displacement and migration in Central America. The date of this trip is TBD but first we would need to know of those interested in participating. So, if you are interested in learning about this spiritually enriching opportunity or contributing to our mission meeting discussions, please contact Cindy Hammaker or Gary Russell. Our next committee meeting is Wednesday, February 8th at 7 p.m. at St. Peter’s and everyone is encouraged and welcomed to attend!

§ § § § §

### Who’s New?



**Chylack/Wenger Family**

Jolie Chylack and Kent Wenger are the loving parents of Catherine, Jeremy, Leo, and Christian Wenger. Their extended family also includes Jolie’s mother, Mona Chylack. They are one of our newer families to join Saint Peter’s and you will see them busily engaged in many of St. Peter’s activities and ministries.

This busy family resides in Royersford. Kent is Head of Loyalty Marketing Operations, Swift Capital and Jolie works as Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator, Lehigh County Conservation District. Mona is an avid horseback rider and is retired as Associate Director of Financial Aid, Ursinus College. In addition, Catherine and Jeremy are farm hands at Renninger’s Farm Stand.

Kent and Jolie met at Ursinus College and have (for the most part) enjoyed “fixing and re-fixing” their very old house. When given the chance, they enjoy hiking with their Newfoundland dogs and sailing on the upper Chesapeake. Catherine is an avid reader and volleyball setter. Jeremy enjoys hockey and x-country. Leo loves music and hanging out with Deacon Dennis on Sundays. Christian is fascinated by science and art and is looking forward to joining the chess club at school next week!

When asked what brought them to St. Peter’s, they responded that they think it may have been Saint Peter himself, with a touch of Koshy, David, Joe, Dennis and the rest of the amazing St. Peter’s congregation!

“We feel very blessed to be in a place of worship that includes a beautiful liturgy, a loving community environment and so many opportunities for service. We would like to

thank the entire church for making us feel like we've been long-time members from the start.”

§ § § § §

## February Birthdays



- [2] Ron Druckenmiller
- [3] Jake Vargo
- [4] Brittany Rennie
- [5] Owen Szerenyi
- [6] Trey Warkala
- [7] Naomi Grunwell, Jonie Coleman
- [8] Lynn Fraker
- [9] Lisa Brock
- [12] Mariel Weiss
- [14] Caitlin Rothenberger
- [15] Robert Birkbeck
- [16] David Hyatt
- [17] Bill Sullens
- [18] Jan Wier, Kim Thornton, Scarlett Heist
- [19] Ryan Wier, Michael Paster
- [20] Mike Logar
- [22] Eric Quaintance, George Barker
- [27] Gabriel Kostelny

§ § § § §

## Worship Service Participants

February ~ 2017

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 5 Glenn Murray
- 12 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 19 Joan Grunwell
- 26 Jack Susskind

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 5 Louis Steffenhagen  
Lisa Scott *chalicist*
- 12 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 19 Ron Gaugler
- 26 Henry Young

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 5 Pat Howse, Lady Rennie
- 12 Judi Hans, Lisa Scott
- 19 Anne Andrews, Mike Logar
- 26 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke

Acolytes

- 5 Ryan Sutter  
Trey Foerster, Vernet Spence-Brown
- 12 Brandon Rennie  
Sydney Alling, Libby Andrews
- 19 Michael Logar  
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 26 James Hammaker  
Emma Martz, Sean Magee

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 5 Curt Quaintance, Joyce Paster  
Marty Bloem *intercessor*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 12 Mali Warren, Louis Steffenhagen  
Kent Wenger *intercessor*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 19 Marty Bloem, Jan Wier  
Michael Logan *intercessor*  
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
- 26 Beverly Burkhardt, Shelly Brennfleck  
Catherine Wenger *intercessor*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*

Ushers

- 5 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 12 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 19 Curt, Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 26 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett