

# SAINT PETER'S NET

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

## From the Rector



*Bwana Yesu asifiwe, Praise the Lord,*

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Ecclesiastes 3:11.*

My wife Sylvia, Leah our daughter and I are grateful to God for this call to serve His church, and to you St. Peter's Phoenixville for calling me to be a servant among you as your 19<sup>th</sup> rector.

As I look to begin my ministry here, I am extremely encouraged by the unconditional love I see taking place inside and outside these walls by those who attend and serve here. While I look forward to meeting you all, I want to share with you a little about myself. I am a native of Kenya and came to the United States in 2001 for further studies. Growing up I loved so much to follow my dad who until his retirement last year was an Anglican Parish Priest in Kenya. It was Dad's passion and love for the work of God that first drew me into wanting to be a Priest.

Now that I am a priest, I strive to not get caught up in the accolades, titles, blessings, and accomplishments of this world but rather to focus on knowing Jesus, the One Who is both God and human, both Person and Power, both Judge and Friend. Professor Bill Thrasher said it well: "God made us to know Him before He made us to serve Him." I want to know Him, and allow my service to overflow from that intimate knowledge, love, and friendship. My prayer is together with you to establish and strengthen a "Creative, loving, and inspired ministry that loosens the burdens of religion and leads people to a lifetime, obedient relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ."

I have always been extremely active socially, I love nature and believe there is no place I can see God more than in His creation, I enjoy driving long distances, I am attempting to learn how to swim. During my quiet times I enjoy relaxing with a good book, watch a funny movie, listen to music and at some instances just sing.

Today we begin the Season of Advent in the Church, it begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day (known as Advent Sunday) and always ends on Christmas Eve. This season is about the coming of Jesus Christ. It begins with a time of waiting and longing and ends with celebrating the birth of our Savior, the Messiah, on Christmas.

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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

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

### Vestry

2020 Judi Hans  
Vincent Giancaterino  
Leo Guen  
2021 Shelly Brennfleck  
Frank Rothenberger  
Jan Wier  
2022 Lynn Boukalik  
Vernon Feather  
MaryJo Wells

### How to contact St. Peter's

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## What's Happening At St. Peter's December 2020

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At various times and moments in life we have individually had moments of waiting, sometimes for good news or sometimes for not so good news, corporately as a Church you have recently been through a period of waiting for news from the discernment committee and the vestry in regards to the next rector, I have also been through this period of waiting as I waited to hear from them at various stages of the process. None of us here today is immune to waiting and the anxieties that come with it.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, whenever we find ourselves in an advent season, waiting for a result, waiting for an answer or just waiting, that is the Lord's time, He uses it to prepare you or he prepares it for you but whatever the case, He makes everything beautiful. The anticipation under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness. May God lead us to quiet and still waters as we meditate and wait.

Thank you for your openness to welcome me into this great community; as your priest and pastor, and as your spiritual brother and friend in Christ. Let God's mission be our mission,

I do need your prayers, help and support.

Thank you!

*Fr. Sam.*



## **Deacon's Roundtable**

Happy New Year! December is the beginning of the Church year. It is a season called Advent, a period of time to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

How can we best open our hearts to receive this precious gift given to us by God? The gift of his only begotten Son, born of a virgin, raised as a human child, grown to manhood and died as a

martyr, giving his Body and Blood as a living remembrance. I am convinced that fifteen minutes set aside in our busy world to meditate on the first chapters of the Gospel writings will help us to prepare our hearts to receive this precious gift from God the Father. This will help us to gain "access" to God (Ephesians 2:18). Every time we do that, God will shower us with blessings, even if we don't feel them right away, even if they aren't exactly the same blessings we were looking for. In his love for us—and in his infinite wisdom—God will always give us what we need.

I encourage you to come to the Lord with confidence every day this Advent. Come eagerly like the shepherds, who heard "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10). Come humbly, like the magi, who "were overjoyed" and who prostrated themselves and did him homage" (Matthew 2:10-11). And come trustingly, like the Virgin Mary, who said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

This Advent can be a time of real and lasting grace as you look forward to Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. All it takes is a few minutes of prayer each day and your presence at the Altar each Sunday to receive anew the Body and Blood of Christ. All God asks is that we open our heart to him just a little more each day. So come, and let Christ be reborn in you each day.

Shirley and I wish each and every one of you a Meditative Advent, a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the light of Christ.

*Deacon Joe*



## **Deadlines**

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
all 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 Schedules

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Flower Offerings

Articles/dates for the January 2020 *NET*

**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Final date** to receive financial  
contributions for 2019.



## 2019 Advent Giving Tree December 1 to December 15, 2019



This year marks the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this project.

Our recipient this year is Orion, a local organization providing support to families in need. The tags on the tree are from their wish list. Please take a tag or two from the tree, replace it with a star, and bring your items to church and place them by the tree.

Items donated will be given to Orion the week of December 16<sup>th</sup> in time for them to share with the families. Any gift cards, please give to Retta Sparano to hold. Thank you for your generosity to this annual giving.



## Christmas Altar Flowers



You are invited to share in the joy of beautifying our church for the Christmas Season. There is NO suggested contribution amount. Your offerings can be made as a memorial or thank offering, **PRINTING all names clearly**. Please, email your

memorial/thank offering to the parish office, or place it in the weekly offering plate. **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> is the DEADLINE**. All names will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

## Greening of the Church



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The Greening of the Church is an annual custom at Saint Peter's in which we prepare our church and our hearts for the coming of Christmas.

We will decorate our beloved church on Sunday, December 22 after the 10:00 a.m. service. Early Christians placed greens in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine, and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter. Evergreens symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus.

We invite everyone to the church to decorate for Christmas Eve. Donations of pine, juniper, holly, and other greens are appreciated. Please leave them outside by the door of the Lady Chapel.

Together, we will prepare our beautiful church to celebrate the birth of Christ. All adults and children are welcome to join in this annual Christmas tradition at Saint Peter's.

## Cookie Exchange



Our annual cookie exchange will be held on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:00 service. All are invited to participate. Bake several dozens of your favorite cookies and trade them for other delicious cookies. How are they exchanged? For example, if you bake three dozen cookies, you take home three dozen assorted cookies. All are guaranteed to delight your families and friends!

## 2020 Giving Envelopes



Giving envelopes will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please ***DO NOT*** use them until Sunday, January 5, 2020! If you do not find a box with your name, contact the Parish Office and a box will be prepared for you.



## Christmas Services



**Tuesday, December 24**

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Pageant;  
Family Eucharist**
- 8:15 p.m. Choral Music**
- 8:30 p.m. Choral Festival Eucharist**



## St. Peter's Food Pantry Update



Once again, Parishioner donations for our Thanksgiving Pantries went beyond our wildest expectations. We were able to offer a full thanksgiving style meal to every family attending our Thanksgiving pantries. We

continue to have 2 pantries one on a Saturday and then on the following Monday, and were able to distributed a full holiday meal to about 130 families.

Turkeys were provided courtesy of the Chester County Food Bank, and with generous donations, we were able to offer Encore frozen turkey dinners to those who couldn't use a turkey and also pumpkins pies.

As the Thanksgiving pantry ended on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Boy Scouts from a local troop lead by MaryJo Wells, arrived with over 2000 items they had collected. It was so

rewarding to watch the scouts very enthusiastically bring their donations and help put them away.

A huge THANK YOU to all of our PARISHIONERS who continue to support the pantry with donations of food and money too [see photo at the beginning of this article], and to all the VOLUNTEERS who make those donations work for the benefit of people in our community. If you have some free time, the pantry could use a few more volunteers – especially for the Monday evening pantries. Please contact Doreen at [penczer@comcast.net](mailto:penczer@comcast.net)



## Music @ St. Peter's Presents



**John Maurer**  
**January 19, 2020 4:00pm**

John Maurer is recognized as an “exhilarating, very versatile trumpet performer and educator.

Originally from Upper Darby, John graduated as the trumpet graduate assistant from Penn State. He also has a Master's in trumpet performance and Bachelor's in Music Education from Millersville. He happily lives in Dingmans Ferry with his wife, firstborn son and crazy cat.



## What is a Vestry?



The short answer is that the vestry takes care of the business of a church's operation. At Saint Peter's the vestry is composed of 9 people who each serve a 3 year term; each person can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. A vestry clerk is appointed to take minutes. (Please see the front cover of this NET which lists the names and terms of vestry representatives.) These individuals have been elected at the annual meeting to serve the people of Saint Peter's.

The longer answer is that the vestry meets monthly, usually on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm. Please know that vestry meetings are open to all. An agenda is presented with a timeline; committee or ministry reports are circulated prior to the meeting so all are kept current. We also discuss vestry goals, current projects, and hear clergy reports.

As members of Saint Peter's, we can observe how our church looks from the outside, our beautiful building, our transforming worship, the inspiring music. We can also appreciate how the church works on the inside, the finances, ministries, property issues, etc. Being on vestry gives an opportunity to be involved with our church, but also to learn more about how the church operates and to know each other in a more personal way.

Everyone who is a confirmed Episcopalian member can serve on vestry. Being elected to vestry carries some responsibility, but also provides the joy and honor of serving each other and serving our church. If you would like to be considered for vestry nomination, please contact Father Sam or Judi Hans.



## December Birthdays

- [1] John Kostenly
- [3] William De Prado, Jenna Adams
- [5] Brooks Hobbs
- [6] Sarah Hammaker
- [10] Don Hans
- [11] David Schaefer
- [12] Karen Mitten
- [15] Bryn Hamilton
- [16] Douglas Streuli
- [22] Ethan Smith, Richard Greene,  
Matthew Kiernan
- [23] Charlotte Rothenberger
- [25] Anne Holbrook
- [26] Christopher Hope
- [27] Tripp Wilson
- [28] Natalie Famous
- [29] Marty Bloem
- [31] Kunal Hivale

## December Anniversary

- [9] Scott and Cindy Paris



## December Worship Service Participants

### **Greeters - 8:00 am**

- 1** James Dallas
- 8** Lisa Scott
- 15** Sue Patrick
- 22** Glenn Murray
- 29** James Dallas

### **Lectors - 8:00 am**

- 1** Lisa Scott *lector*; Ron Gaugler *chaliceist*
- 8** Sue Patrick *lector*
- 15** Ron Gaugler *lector*
- 22** Sue Patrick *lector*
- 29** Ron Gaugler *lector*

### **Greeters – 10:00 am**

- 1** Marva Young, Cindy Giancaterino
- 8** Carmita Magee, Lady Rennie
- 15** Kim Thornton, Pat Howse
- 22** Judi Hans, Danielle/Vincent Jouenne
- 24 4:00** Judi Hans, Marva Young
- 8:30** Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke
- 29** Vernet Spence-Brown, Lady Rennie

### **Acolytes**

- 1** Vernet Spence-Brown  
Christian Wenger, Leo Wenger
- 8** Victor Jackson  
Colin Parker, Sean Magee
- 15** Frank Rothenberger  
Emma Martz, Rebecca Martz
- 22** Vernet Spence-Brown  
Christian Wenger, Leo Wenger
- 24 4:00** Frank Rothenberger  
Isaac Nagy, Coleman Nagy
- 8:30** To Be Annouced  
M.J. Kiernan, Emma Martz
- 29** Victor Jackson  
Colin Parker, M.J. Kiernan

### **Lectors – 10:00 am**

- 1** Jolie Chylack, Vernet Sepence-Brown  
Kent Wenger *intercessor*  
Jeremy Wenger *chaliceist*  
Carol Russell *chaliceist*
- 8** Advent Lessons and Carols  
Gary Russell *chaliceist*
- 15** Marty Bloem, Mona Chylack  
Mary Ellen Babbitt *intercessor*  
Jolie Chylack *chaliceist*
- 22** Beverly Burkhardt, David Brennfleck  
Shelly Brennfleck *intercessor*  
Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
- 24 4:00** Children's Pageant  
Trevor Hall *intercessor*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
- 8:30** Leo Guen, Ron Druckenmiller  
Georgette Druckenmiller *intercessor*  
Ron Druckenmiller *chaliceist*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chaliceist*
- 29** Christmas Lessons and Carols  
Richard Greene *chaliceist*

### **Ushers**

- 1** Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 8** Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 15** Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 22** Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
- 24 4:00** Participants to be announced
- 8:30** Participants to be announced
- 29** John Andrews, Jim Tackett