

SAINT PETER'S NET

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

From the Rector

Let me begin this letter with a high note of gratitude for your continued love and your wonderful welcoming my family and I into your lives and Parish. I am deeply humbled, forever grateful, and most of all, I bless God's holy name for calling me to St. Peter's 2 months ago. Thank you, thank you, thank you for being God's people in a day and age when the world continues to walk away from church. May we all continue to run with all we have to the finish line where we will be embraced by Christ, and hear those words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

May we all enter this New Year with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all the things and people we've been blessed with, and have often taken for granted. Let us be grateful for each other, for health, warmth, silence, beauty, creativity, friendship, family, fellowship, and those who help us through so many difficult times—the list is endless.

I pray that we will re-commit ourselves to allowing the light of God's love to shine into the dark corners of our lives. We will then be enabled to share that light with those around us and make the world a brighter place. With each New Year comes the chance of a fresh start, the resolve to do or to achieve more and the hope of brighter things in store.

However, in our personal lives I guess that many of us are also carrying our own fears and anxieties. New Year reminds us that we are stepping out into the depth of worldly darkness again. Perhaps we ask as Christians how can we embrace our unknown future in trust and hope.

Here are some words of Christian hope; words from a poem by M L Haskins which were broadcast by King George VI at the beginning of the Second World War,

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".*

And he replied:

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".*

So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night

As we look forward, we need not be fearful and we must do our utmost not to let our personal apprehensions take control. Instead, we look and move eagerly forward to all that God has in store for us in 2020 and in years to come. May 2020 be a year of growth and maturity for our faith and our congregation. Let us all be diligent to bring the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in every way open to us, personally and communally. May we all follow God's light wherever He leads us, for we will never be disappointed if we remain faithful and true.

A servant among you.

Fr. Sam.

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. Fr. 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

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What's Happening At St. Peter's February 2020

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Deacon's Roundtable

It is my practice to use a devotional each morning for my prayer time titled The Word Among Us. This month there are articles about Mother Teresa of Calcutta. To the question, "Who is Jesus to me?" Mother Teresa responds with a litany of titles: Jesus is the Word—to be spoken; Jesus is the Life—to be lived; Jesus is the Love—to be loved; Jesus is the Joy—to be shared; Jesus is the Sacrifice—to be offered; Jesus is the Peace—to be given; Jesus is the Bread of Life—to be eaten.

One of the best-known sayings of Mother Teresa is "The fruit of love is service, / The fruit of service is peace.

"You-did-it-to-me." Mother Teresa marked out on her the fingers of her hand and said they comprised "the Gospel in our five fingers. For her, Jesus, who is present in the Eucharist, is present in a different but equally real way "in the distressing disguise of the poor." The litany in honor of Jesus recorded above continues without any break: Jesus is the hungry—to be fed; Jesus is the Thirsty—to be satiated; Jesus is the Naked—to be clothed; Jesus is the Homeless—to be taken in; Jesus is the Sick—to be healed; Jesus is the Lonely—to be loved.

I believe we attempt to follow Mother Teresa's teaching as we follow her example in all that we try to do to help the homeless, the sick, the lonely and the hungry her at St. Peter's. I pray we do not get lax or complacent and keep up the good work.

Blessings to all as we complete the Ordinary time of Epiphany and prepare for the rigors and fasting of Lent.

Deacon Joe

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

February 9 - One Service Only ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Please plan to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 9. There will be one service that day at 10:00 AM. Fr. Sam 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.

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St. Peter's Youth Group is Serving Breakfast on February 23rd!

Katie Druckenmiller



Please come out and enjoy a hot breakfast that supports St. Peter's Youth Group on Sunday, February 23rd. The youth will be serving pancakes, sausage, fruit, and juice. Thank you.

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Welcome, Visitors!

Judi Hans



Saint Peter's has been described as a friendly community who extends a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers to our church. Each month, we have 3 to 4 sets of visitors who join us in worship on Sunday morning. While some people are just visiting, we also have many visitors who are looking for a church home. You might wonder what you can do to continue

our welcoming ambiance. Here are some suggestions:

- Acknowledge the visitor by saying “hello” or “welcome.” Even though many visitors do not want a lot of attention, ignoring a visitor does not send the right message.
- Sit near a visitor. If he or she might be having difficulty with following the service or using the hymnal, offer some assistance.
- During the time of the peace, share a warm message of peace.
- Introduce yourself to the visitor when leaving after the service, and invite the visitor to coffee hour.
- At coffee hour, introduce yourself and family to the visitor. Allowing the visitor to stand or sit alone is not a welcoming gesture.
- You are invited to join the New Member/Growth Ministry. We meet monthly to plan strategies and activities to attract, follow up and incorporate new members into the body of our church.

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Pantry News



We have taken a major step forward in our ability to meet one of our most important reasons for being, that is, to improve the overall health and nutrition of our pantry guests by offering fresh and nutritious foods. To that end, we met recently with Mr. Terry Britt, Owner of Kimberton Whole Foods and were very pleased to accept his offer to support the St. Peter’s Pantry with frozen meats in sufficient quantities to serve every guest at least one serving of meat every pantry. The availability of meat protein will significantly improve nutrition in our guests, many of whom are not able to afford meat protein in their normal diet. Normally they might meet their protein needs with canned tuna, canned chicken or peanut butter, so this will be a game changer for them.

Thanks to all who support our pantry by your very generous food donations and financial contributions. Your support makes it possible to continue high quality service to those experiencing food insecurity in our community.

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Capital Campaign

Mark Hammaker



Over the next few weeks be ready for some dramatic changes (we are speaking improvements) in the Fellowship Room which are being done as part of the Capital Campaign project to install a hydraulic lift/ADA bathroom in the Fellowship Room. The hydraulic lift has been delivered and installed and needs just a few additional items installed to finish its installation. Work is also progressing on the ADA bathroom, with wall tile being installed and fixtures yet to come. The most noticeable changes to come for the Fellowship Room will be to provide the entire space with a new coat of paint to be followed by installation of a new floor. The new paint and floor should be dramatic improvements for this space—very exciting. There are just a few preparations that need to be completed and then painting should begin the week of January 20. The new floor should then be installed shortly thereafter. The entire project should be completed no later than mid-February.

As a reminder, we are heading into the 2nd year of the Capital Campaign and I hope that you are excited about the improvements being made so far. Please remember to make your Capital Pledge payments soon if you have yet to make them. If you have not yet committed a pledge to the Capital Campaign yet and would like to be part of these exciting improvements to our church, it is never too late (simply contact the church office about this)! See Mark Hammaker

if you have any questions about the Capital Campaign or the ongoing projects.

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Maple Sugaring and a Message From St. Peters Environmental Ministry

Jolie Chylack



We often think of winter as a time of dormancy in the outdoor world, however some might be surprised to learn how “hard at work” the barren-looking trees actually are. While their leafless skeletal frames seem withered and asleep, it just takes a close-up look at their buds to see that life is actually pulsing as those trees are preparing to develop spring leaves.

A fantastic example of the surging of life is taking place in maple trees. Maple sugaring season typically is at its peak right now in January when days are above 40 degrees Fahrenheit but nights are below freezing. The sugar-filled sap flows up from the roots of the maples during the warmth of the day through straw-like xylem tubes in the trunk of the tree. This sap gradually makes its way out toward the buds at the ends of all the branches and that same sap comes back down at night through separate straw-like tubes called phloem. During the night the sap is of course stored in the roots.

Native Americans began to harvest sap, it is thought, after they noticed bears “tapping” into maple trees as they scratched the bark during this winter season and then licked their paws. They developed wooden spiles, or thin hollowed branch sections that when inserted into holes drilled in these trees would allow the sap to spill out. Colonial maple sugaring farmers further refined the process by creating spiles from metal. These spiles had hooks from which buckets could be hung so that the sap could efficiently be collected. It may surprise some to

learn that it actually takes 40 gallons of maple sap to produce one gallon of syrup! Though maple sap tastes slightly sugary, it consists mostly of water. In a sugar shack, the sap is boiled and boiled away in an evaporator until the thick brown sugary syrup is the product. Boiling all the water out of the syrup yields the actual maple sugar.

Like the maple tree, it is time for the Environmental Committee to begin preparing for spring and the terrific year ahead. I hope many of you are looking forward to reinstating the Ember cleanup walks as my family and I are. This year we will be seeking ideas from parishioners regarding locations where our cleanup walks are really needed. Please let me know if you have a suggestion within our broader Phoenixville community where our care is especially needed. Our garden beds have a nice cover crop holding the soil in place so it won’t blow away this winter. By April, we will be needing to sew our first seeds so that we can begin harvesting for the pantry, hopefully by June! There will be opportunities for any who would like to be a part of this effort as well. Last year we were able to provide the pantry with more than 125 bags of produce! Plans for camping expeditions are also on the horizon – please stay tuned. Finally, we are hoping to partner with other community organizations and churches in our diocese to increase our environmental endeavors.

In closing, please know that while aspects of winter seem bleak, cold and quiet, there is actually so much hidden energy to be tapped! Please consider joining the Saint Peters Environmental Ministry in 2020. Our February meeting will be announced in the coming weeks.

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2020 Vestry Candidates

Leo Guen

Three Year Term



As a fourth-generation Chinese American son of Boston Chinatown community activists, and the eldest grandson of 1952 Maine and American Mother of the Year Toy Len Goon, I grew up with high expectations of responsibility, leadership and service to others, especially to make life better for immigrants and others lacking a voice at the table.

In 2015, I came to St. Peter's Episcopal Church and immediately knew I had found a spiritual home --- full of openness, diversity, music, compassionate outreach, and opportunities for community service.

I jumped into the choir, lectoring, Stewardship, landscaping, and currently play a leading role in upgrading our website. My wife Sherry and I have performed ballroom and Latin dances for Father Koshy's 10th anniversary celebration, Deacon Joe's 25th anniversary celebration and the annual Phoenixville Multi-Cultural Festival. We have 3 adult children who attended our wedding at St. Peter's in October 2018.

I have 40 years of experience as a bank and software Business Analyst and management consultant, and currently work at JPMorgan Chase in Jersey City and NYC.

Diane Hope

Three Year Term



I've attended St. Peter's since 1984, when my husband and I moved to the area. I have two grown sons who reside in Chicago and Los Angeles. I recently retired after many years as a paralegal, focused in the area of business and real estate. I continue to do some consulting work for business clients. Recently, I have participated in the Stewardship Ministry and as a member of the Discernment Committee. I've enjoyed my many years at St. Peter's due to a strong connection to our congregation and my appreciation for the "faith in action" focus at our church. It's an exciting new chapter for St. Peter's and I would like to serve to continue our success.

Todd Jackson

Three Year Term

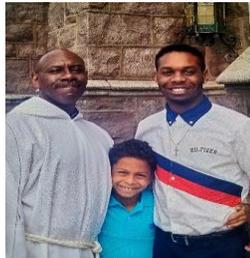


Todd Jackson lives in East Vincent and has attended St. Peter's for about 15 years. He has been married to Jyl Harrington for 42 years, and together they raised daughters Eryn and Rachel. Todd was co-chair of the discernment committee that called Fr. Sam to St. Peter's, working closely with the Vestry. He actively supports the food pantry, producing the state and federal reports of pantry clients served, and is part of the Godly Play staff and the pastoral care committee.

Todd has worked since 1977 in the nuclear power industry, having completed 30 years as a health physicist and project engineer for the US

Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He also served as Chemistry Manager at the Limerick Generating Station, and as an emergency responder at Three Mile Island and in Tokyo, Japan after the 2011 earthquake.

Victor X. Jackson
One Year Term



My name is Victor Jackson. It doesn't seem that long, but I have attended St. Peter's for over 10 years. I have had quite a spiritual journey in that time. There was a time in my life when I was too selfish in my own habits to appreciate the true gifts of love and service. I was incapable of truly being a good steward of the important things of life. However, God saw fit not to give me the measure of my inequities but instead to have mercy on me. God restored the blessing of choice to me and with that I choose to surrender my will and life to God.

Through recovery I have been blessed to learn that true gratitude is demonstrated through service to others. God's grace continues to provide me with opportunities to learn, grow and serve.

I realize there is nothing more important to me than family. I have three amazing sons that I love very much. There is also my extended family. Their unconditional love and support has been constant. Without them this journey is not possible. I have come to appreciate and love St. Peter's as part of my family.

God continues to transform me into the man he intends. Should a call to serve on the St. Peters Vestry be part of His plan, I would be honored to humbly accept.

February Celebrations



[26] Richard and Karen Greene



- [2] Ron Druckenmiller
- [3] Jake Vargo
- [4] Brittany Rennie
- [7] Joni Coleman
- [9] Lisa Brock, Mona Chylack, Harrison Jenkins
- [12] Mariel Weiss
- [14] Caitlin Rothenberger
- [16] David Hyatt, Richard Green
- [17] Bill Sullens
- [18] Jan Wier, Kim Thornton
- [19] Ryan Wier, Michael Paster, Benjamin Woolston
- [20] Mike Logar
- [22] Eric Quaintance
- [26] Cindy Paris
- [27] Gabriel Kostelny, Henry Cassidy
- [28] Julia Kiernan, Carmita Magee

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A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

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Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

Worship Service Participants

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 2 Lisa Scott
9 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
16 James Dallas
23 Glenn Murray

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 2 Ron Gaugler
Ron Gaugler *chaliceist*
9 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
16 Ron Gaugler
23 Sue Patrick

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 2 Vernet Spence-Brown, Anne Atlee
9 Kim Thornton, Mike Logar
16 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke
23 Anne Atlee, Judi Hans
26 7:30 Ash Wednesday Judy Hans

Acolytes

- 2 Frank Rothenberger
Colin Parker, Sean Magee
9 Victor Jackson
Emma Martz, Rebecca Martz
16 Sean Magee
Coleman Nagy, Isaac Nagy
23 Victor Jackson
Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger
26 7:30 Frank Rothenberger
Ash Wednesday Emma Martz, Rebecca Martz

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 2 David Brennfleck, Lynn Boukalik
Carol Russell *intercessor*
Vincent Giancaterino *chaliceist*
Will Brennfleck *chaliceist*
9 John Magee, Amy Atlee
Chris Goulian *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chaliceist*
16 Karen Martz, Jan Wier
Retta Sparano *intercessor*
Richard Greene *chaliceist*
23 Vince Tavani, Vernet Spence-Brown
Susan Thomas *intercessor*
Gary Russell *chaliceist*
26 7:30 Ash Wednesday
Marty Bloem, John Magee
Karen Martz *intercessor*
Jeremy Wenger *chaliceist*

Ushers

- 2 Clem Young, Sam Smith
9 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
16 Curt, Quaintance, Carl Rennie
23 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett