

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,

While on sabbatical in 2012 and staying at the Rishikesh Ashram, nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Himalayas, I received an urgent and desperate call from my sister in Southern India where most of my family lives. She wanted me to settle a dispute between her two sons, Thomas and Mathew, believing they would listen to their uncle, a priest from the States, and one who had just experienced the ancient wisdom of the east. I did not change my travel schedule, however prayed for my sister and nephews. Two weeks later, I was at the jetty, across from my sister's house, waiting for a canoe to take me across the river to her house, when I saw a canoe approaching me rowed by my two nephews. It was great to see them navigating the canoe across a rushing river in a synchronized manner to keep the canoe straight and get to where I was standing. The talk about their dispute never came up; surely, it was a sign of new life.

Recently, I attended a conference at the diocese, called "Living Signs of New Life", one of the many gatherings facilitated by Ki ThoughtBridge, the group the Diocesan Transition Team has been consulting with to prepare the diocese to call our new bishop. Laity and clergy talked about how much progress we have made over the past two years in healing wounds and building relationships in our common life as a diocese. Bishop Daniel, who is serving as our bishop during this transition time, will call the search for a new bishop only if he sees people living signs of new life in the diocese. Some indicators of new life in our diocese today include more laughter, joy, and hope at our gatherings, more individuals and congregations engaged in its common life, and a renewed sense of trust. There was consensus among those of us who gathered at the conference that we have come a long way from where we were two years ago. New life blooms only when the right conditions come along like the dormant life in a desert explodes into vitality and vibrant colors after a rain or snowfall.

After the summer lull, it is good to once again see our church full and the worship experience vibrant. We are definitely living signs of new life. The vulnerable in our community are attended to more than ever through our pantry and weekday lunches. We are now a seven-day church as opposed to only seventh day. Our Godly Play registration of 28 children is up from last year. Our annual picnic was a huge success with over 100 people attending, many of whom are new members. Our church is at our best when each of us uses whatever gifts we have to serve others as faithful stewards in God's grace in its various forms.

As we begin a new a stewardship year in October, let us live the signs of new life in generous pledging of our abundant gifts and resources for the ministries and missions we are committed to as the body of Christ in Phoenixville.

Blessings, *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

Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, *Rector*
Rev. David Hyatt, *Assisting Clergy*
Rev. Joseph Dietz, *Deacon*
Rev. Dennis Coleman, *Deacon*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Nicholas Lodico, *Organist/Choir Master*
Alex Smith, *Asst. Organist/Choir Master*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2015 John Magee
Retta Sparano
2016 Barbara Endrey
Raymond Forester
Cindy Hammaker
2017 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe

How to contact St. Peter's

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October 2014

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Deacon's Roundtable

The Feast of the Holy Cross, which was celebrated on September 14, has special meaning for me. First let me give you a little church history.

In the year 326, St. Helena, the mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, discovered the true cross of Jesus near the site that generations had venerated as the Mount of the Crucifixion. St. Helena directed that a church be built on the site—the Church of the Holy Sepulcher—and the cross was placed in a prominent position within the building. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335, and the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross was celebrated annually on the following day, September 14.

For me personally, this has great significance. The Episcopal Church has a religious order of monks known as the Holy Cross Fathers. Their main monastery is located in West Park, New York almost directly across the Hudson River from the home of Franklin Roosevelt and Hyde Park. As a young man, a very good friend and I would spend a couple of days during the summer in retreat with the Fathers and Brothers at Holy Cross. We also had the opportunity for some of the Holy Cross Brothers to come to Christ Church, Pottstown in the early 1970's to conduct in-parish retreats. Much later, as I was accepted as a postulant for Holy Orders, it was mandatory that all aspirants to the ministry write a letter to their bishop four times a year to update him/her about our studies, our ministries, and our personal lives. One of these letters coincided with the Feast of the Holy Cross.

This leads me to how we live our Christian lives. When we see the glory of the cross of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice he made for us, we rejoice. But when we lose sight of this wonderful gift of salvation we let the cross be buried under our many priorities and responsibilities.

When we are touched by some tragic event, a book we read, or a moving sermon at the Eucharist, we excavate the cross and exalt it

once again. We give it a place of prominence in our hearts saying in effect, "Jesus, I exalt your holy cross. I make it the foundation of my life. Give me your peace."

May we all do our best to exalt the Cross of Jesus Christ and make it the first foundation of our lives.

In Christ's Love,

Deacon Joe



A Word From Deacon II

- As you may know, Joni and I are involved with the Micro-Finance program at Good Samaritan Shelter. Many thanks for the financial support from our parish, as well as those generous parish members that have contributed. The loans have begun, enabling two men to buy cars (one fellow took three buses and four hours to get to work, normally a forty five minute ride). Another man was able to accelerate his fine payments, restore his license, and return to his family.
- Working closely with Gary Russell, we have begun an initiative that recycles unneeded family items to those in need. If you have nice, but unwanted items such as furniture or housewares, we have created an inventory spot to store them until a local person in need is identified for them. *We want to distribute good items, for free.* I recently was invited to visit an apartment in Phoenixville of someone that was ecstatic over having their own apartment in town. His total furnishings were a used TV and an air mattress. Talk to Gary or myself if you are able to help with additional furnishings.
- Over the summer, the good folks of St. Peter's took over the Tuesday lunch program. When September rolled around, and the other

church returned to duty, they decided to take over a Friday luncheon every week. This is huge for our neighbors in need. While we can be proud that lunch was being provided from our church on Tuesdays through Thursdays, which meant that once Thursday was over, there was no meal for the next four days! Adding Friday *is* a big deal. Now if we could just find someone for Mondays...

- The Luncheon Program, although hosted at St. Peter's, is a wonderful community effort. Four different churches each serve a weekly meal, and there is more community involvement than just the churches. Pizzas have been donated by Bella Pizza, Bob's Haven is a regular contributor, and TD Alfredo's has made a long term commitment. I very recently met "Chef John" from The Great American Pub, which is located right behind us. John is new to the area, a true believer, and wanted to extend his work into ministry. After visiting us at lunchtime, he quickly volunteered to donate the main course...every Friday! Please support those businesses that assist us in this ministry, and when you visit The Great American Pub, get to know Chef John. He would love it.

- Beginning on November 13, St. Peters will host a series called *The Heart of Poverty*. We will meet for five Thursday nights from 6:30 until 8 PM, and a meal is included. The series is hosted by Deacon Jeff Moretsohn and myself and is aimed at understanding the depth, causes and reasons for poverty everywhere, including the twelfth richest county in the U.S. - our own Chester County. We will explore our own interest and abilities to seek and serve Christ in all others. This program is open to everyone and more information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, please check out the program at <http://theheartofpoverty.webs.com/>

Yours in Christ the Servant,

Deacon Dennis

Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, October 5th

The spirit of St. Francis will once again be celebrated at St. Peter's on the first Sunday in October with a pet blessing **during the 10:00 a.m. service**. Let's celebrate the special animals that enrich our lives with their unconditional love. Pets are welcome to attend the service and will receive a blessing and a medal from our clergy. In the interest of safety, we ask that all pets arrive leashed or crated. If your pet is not fond of traveling or will find the service overwhelming, feel free to bring a photo for blessing. Children are welcome to bring a favorite stuffed animal, too. Please also encourage your family and friends to join us for this special celebration with their pets!

The celebration of St. Francis Day will continue that afternoon when Father Koshy will visit the Chester Counter S.P.C.A. in West Chester to bless the animals awaiting adoption there. Outreach at St. Peter's is not limited to helping people!

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"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Matthew 4:19

The New Member Ministry/Growth invites you to join in our work of welcoming new, and prospective new members to St. Peter's.

On Sunday September 28th, our new business cards will be distributed to all parishioners. We

ask that you use these business cards to reach out to your neighbors, friends, relatives, and new acquaintances as a way to invite them to share our love of Jesus and his work, our beautiful church, our welcoming church family and Christian education programs (especially Godly play).

Just keep a few cards with you and if an opportunity presents itself where you feel someone is seeking a church home, spiritual guidance or help, for whatever reason, tell them about St. Peter's and hand them a card. Or, use the card to invite someone to visit our website to listen to our sermons or attend a special event like our beautiful Advent Lessons & Carols. You can also post a card on a community bulletin board or business card exchange. Be creative and inspired to use the cards to help grow our church community and spread the word of our Lord Jesus.

Additional cards are available through our parish office. A special thank you to Deb Birkbeck for donating her time and talent to design the cards. Please note that Deacon Dennis' name does not appear on the cards which were printed before he was ordained and assigned to St. Peter's. When additional cards are printed, his name will be included.



Stewardship Committee Report



During the period of February through August, your Stewardship Committee focuses on the Time and Talent components of the Time, Talent & Treasure trilogy. During the autumn, our focus turns to Treasure, and unfortunately I believe that component is what most folks probably associate with Stewardship.

Your Stewardship Committee strives to communicate the importance of pledging to the overall financial health of St. Peter's and the various missions of the Church. The in-gathering campaign begins with our First Fruits

message, which commences Sunday September 28th this year. It then continues with various testimonies of our committee members and parishioners on six separate Sundays, and culminates mid-November when we provide a bountiful coffee hour of delicious food and treats.

Last year we ended our campaign with 66 pledges, the same as 2013, however, pledged monies increased by 8.3% or 16,708. There were 27 increased pledges, and 4 new pledges, so a moderately successful campaign. Yet over one-third of our members do not pledge, a statistic that we constantly try to improve. We also want to emphasize the importance of pledging to New Members, which was our primary 2014 goal.

Finally, we lost one member of our gang this year, and Iris has indicated that she will be retiring after this campaign (a huge, huge loss). This will be the 4th or 5th campaign (just can't remember) for Diane and myself, so we are looking for new members as Diane and I contemplate our retirement. Come see us September 28th at the Ministry Fair!

Respectfully submitted, by Don Hans, on behalf of Iris Blanche, Dave Brennfleck, Diane Hope, Eric Sharpe



Outreach/Mission October 2014

Noah Bullock, Executive Director of Cristosal, and Hannah Perls, Resource Development Coordinator will be here on Saturday, October 18 and Sunday, October 19.



The Outreach Mission Committee is sponsoring a Community Awareness and Fundraiser at the Great American Pub at 7:00 PM on Saturday, October 18th. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at

7:00 p.m, program begins at 7:30. There is no charge for admission.

Come and hear Noah speak to the community about the root causes of unaccompanied children arriving at our border and Cristosal's program initiatives to address this dire situation. He will also be in church on Sunday to address the congregation during sermon time and available for Q&A after church during coffee hour.

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Godly Play

Jan Wier



Our Godly Play team is so excited to be beginning our second year of this amazing program. All six Godly Play certified teachers have returned, Amy Brodar, Cindy Hammaker, Danielle Smith, Kim Thornton, Wendy Vargo, and Jan Wier. We are happy to have Mary Jo Wells come aboard as a Door Person. She trained specifically for this position in August. Twenty-eight students have registered for the program, and both classes have a full lively feeling. God's presence is felt in our classrooms!

Godly Play is for children ages 3 through fifth grade. The classroom for our younger children is for ages 3-first grade and older children ages 2nd grade through fifth grade. Godly Play is a Montessori based program of Christian education for children. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language- parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action - to help them become more fully aware of God's presence in their lives. In Godly Play, we tell bible stories to children to encourage them to enter into the stories and relate them to their personal experience.

In addition to working with our stories in our classrooms, we will take Godly Play "on the

road" to St. Peter's Place once or twice this year, we will collect canned goods, and visit the Food Pantry, and of course, conduct our annual Pageant on Christmas Eve.

Would you like to help with Godly Play? We would like to have more people become involved in several ways. We need volunteers to shepherd the children to their classrooms from the church at communion time, and we'd love to have some more people to become part of the teaching team as Door Person. Please contact Jan Wier if you are interested in learning more. Janwier@comcast.net

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Who's Who



Ian, Glenda, and Blake Pongras

Hello everyone! We are the Pongras family, Ian, Glenda and Blake. We live in Collegeville and have been members at St. Peter's since May 2014. Blake was born in April, and was baptized at St. Peter's in August. The Pongras family has an interesting history with St. Peter's as the Fellowship Room is named after Ian's Great Grandmother, Florence Smith. Also, Ian, his father, and his two brothers were baptized at St. Peter's.

Both of us work in the King of Prussia area, where Ian is in Finance, and Glenda is in Human Resources. In our spare time, we enjoy spending time with our family and friends, exercising, cooking, traveling, and playing with our dog Hazel. We look forward to meeting you, if we haven't done so already!

Do YOU know?



Ministries and Programs at St. Peter's

For some time, there has been a mission effort at St. Peter's. Some of these ministries began before the call of our current Rector, Koshy Mathews. When Fr. Mathews came to St. Peter's, it was in part to move the parish forward in its interest to grow in mission. His leadership, along with the constant reminder of our baptismal covenant to serve Christ in all people has helped to develop or continue these mission ministries.

St. Peter's Food Pantry

Twice monthly nearly one hundred local families are served on Saturday mornings. The service includes a hot breakfast, and an abundance of groceries. Along with a welcoming atmosphere we also offer health screening and healthy-choice cooking classes.

Weekday Luncheon Program

For some time, we have been offering a hot lunch, which is donated, prepared and served by volunteers on three week-days. Beginning in September this program will move to five weekdays. Along with this, a lunch and a dinner are offered on Saturdays when the Pantry is not open. Along with lunch, Bible study is offered to all that are interested.

Youth Service Projects

Semi-Annual service projects for youth, including mission trips for the Appalachian Service Project.

Support of Good Samaritan Shelter for Men

This shelter, located in Phoenixville, houses and supports twenty-five men, who are working hard to return fully to society. The GSS offers emergency and transitional shelter, food and mentoring. St. Peter's supports them by providing a Chaplain and a Bible study program, along with providing financial support for their Micro-Loan program, which helps the

men when a loan removes their final obstacle to leaving the shelter, and homelessness.

Parish Advent Tree Program

This is a parish wide ministry that supports local service organizations through individual giving.

Spatula

Although not a parish-only ministry, it was founded by a St. Peter's member, and includes several other parish members. It is a serving ministry (a spatula is used to serve) that seeks only to bring a moment of joy to anyone in need.

Ecumenism

All of the food ministries include the opportunity to contribute service at our parish, by the members of any local church. Several area churches send volunteers to prepare lunches, dinners, and to help in the pantry. By opening our doors (and kitchen) to all and any faith, more are served, while maintaining a central meeting point for those in need. A Healthy Cooking Class meets monthly using our kitchen, which serves the local Hispanic Community.

Diaconal service to our town

The Archdeacon and Bishop have commended a ministry to all those in need in Phoenixville. Many people living on the margins, that do not partake of the organized ministries, are served in counsel, and with food from our pantry by the parish Deacons and lay members.

Cristosal

For the past eight years, parish members, headed by Fr. Koshy, have made mission trips to El Salvador to walk in solidarity with the citizens of this poorest of countries. The Salvadorans are working hard to define themselves post revolution. The Cristosal Organization (Christ in El Salvador) leads this effort, utilizing the teachings of Liberation Theology. We also support Cristosal financially, as we are able.

Handicapped Access

By way of Capital Campaign, St. Peter's has managed to create a long needed method of

access for those handicapped. Like many older churches this was an architectural challenge, but folks can soon enter to worship without climbing a single step!

The Clinic

For over ten years, our former rectory has been home to The Clinic, which provides dignified care for all, particularly the uninsured and the under-insured of the Phoenixville area.



October Birthdays



- 1] Helen Young
- 2] Curt Quaintance
- 5] Ian Schiavone
- 6] Marjorie Hairsine, Karen Hartman
- 7] Sarah Schaefer, Diane Hope;
- 9] Sharon Schiele, Marva Young
- 12] Sarah Williams
- 14] Phoebe Foerster
- 15] Elizabeth Fifer, Abigail Green
- 17] Henry Young
- 18] Mark Hammaker, William Brennfleck, Isaac Nagy
- 19] Michael O'Rourke
- 20] Jennifer Kandle
- 21] Lisa Reid-Scott
- 23] Susan Hyatt, Evan Morse
- 24] Bruce Alling, Cindy Arena
- 26] Michael Browne
- 28] W. Peter Druckenmiller

October Anniversaries



- 2] Courtenay & Sarah Williams
- 8] Ted & Candy Morse
- 19] Gary & Carol Russell; Brian & Kim Thornton

October Worship Participants

Acolytes

- 5 Brandon Rennie
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 12 Thomas Hammaker
James Hammaker, Michael Logar
- 19 Libby Andrews
Sydney Alling, Megan Magee
- 26 Vernet Spence-Brown
Phoebe Foerster, Natalia Tackett

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 5 Joan Grunwell
- 12 Jack Susskind
- 19 Lisa Reid-Scott
- 26 Glenn Murray

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 5 Robert and June Blauser
- 12 Pat Howse, Penny McClimon
- 19 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 26 Judi Hans, Anne Atlee

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 5 Henry Young *lector*
Ron Gaugler *chaliceist*
- 12 Lisa Reid-Scott *lector*
- 19 Ron Gaugler *lector*
- 26 Henry Young *lector*

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 5 To Be Announced - Family Service
Joyce Paster *chaliceist*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*
- 12 Nick Lodico, Georgette Druckenmiller
Susan Mathews *intercessions*
Carol Russell *chaliceist*
- 19 Carol Smith, Trevor Hall
Retta Sparano *intercessions*
Ron Druckenmiller *chaliceist*
- 26 Sarah Ohansian, Joyce Paster
Jan Wier *intercessions*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*

Ushers

- 5 Curt Quaintance, Robert Parker
- 12 Vincent Giancaterino, Carl Rennie
- 19 Bruce Alling, Victor Jackson
- 26 Jon Martin, Clem Young

Dollars and Sense

News from your Accounting Warden

Retta Sparano



Welcome to Frank Rothenberger, newly elected Treasurer for St. Peter's. Over the next few months, we will transition the financial reporting and oversight.

Year-to-date Operating Income & Expense through August 31, 2014

INCOME

- Open Plate and Pledge of \$156,617
- All other operating income within budget
- Total Income through 8/31, including pass-through funds = \$223,181

EXPENSE

- Diocesan assessment completed; pledge payments ongoing
- Portion of clinic income transferred to maintenance savings bi-monthly
- Utilities and building supplies and grounds maintenance over budget by \$7K
- Total expense through 8/31, including pass-through funds = \$212,505

Detail of all income/expense are available on request.

Balances as of August 31, 2014

Checking	\$ 3,663
Savings	36,441
Certificates of Deposit	12,055
Youth Group	506
Mission	517
Pantry/Outreach	35,153
Concert Series	1,988
Building Maintenance	8,008

As 2014 began with a harsh winter and our income was stretched to meet the utility, snow removal and building maintenance expenses, that have so far exceeded expected budget by \$7,000. We do not yet know the impact of the remainder of this year. In addition, we have opened our doors daily to provide space for our neighbors to use the facilities.

Please prayerfully consider meeting your pledge if possible. Your generous support of St. Peter's mission work and daily expenses is appreciated.