

# SAINT PETER'S NET

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

## A Note From The Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

In June the Episcopal church will gather in Salt Lake City, Utah for its triennial convention, at which time, the delegates to the convention will elect a new presiding bishop for the church. This is a vulnerable time for the church, especially for the mainline denominations. According to the pew research polling, the number of people who call themselves Christians in the U.S has been going down and is now at its lowest point. However, it is interestingly alarming to notice that while the church, the purveyor and guardian of morality and values, is steadily losing its' membership, our society is now less racist and sexist as well as more tolerant to the rights of minorities and diversity than it has ever been in our history. Though our particular brand of Christianity has been ahead of the curve on social issues and moral values, we also have lost membership. The Church in USA today finds itself in a strange place and time without any influence or relevance. As the exiled Israelites of ancient times asked, "how can we sing songs of the Lord while in a strange land," today we ask how do we celebrate our faith, when our authority has diminished?

Our church today is as vulnerable as the exilic Israelites of old. However, to admit this vulnerability is hard for a church whose creed says it is apostolic and catholic, for a church that prides itself to be church of the early presidents of our country and its constitution was the basis of our national constitution, for a church that claims its origin to that of our nation and for a church that wields its authority using certainty. But, today our vulnerability is real, our numbers are dwindling, our influence is waning and our relevance is being questioned. We are no longer in the driver's seat. Soccer coaches have more to say than parish priests over how our children spend their Sunday morning.

Yet, our vulnerability can serve to transform ourselves. Just as God chose the vulnerability of a baby to incarnate himself into human history, just as Jesus chose the vulnerability of the despised cross to die on for our salvation and just as the nascent church chose the vulnerability of persecution and martyrdom for its early growth, today's church must use its vulnerability to transform itself to be that channel of God's grace in the world. Our goal should not be self-preservation, rather it is to be like that grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies so that it may produce more grains. Unless we transform ourselves by an infusion of the Spirit of Pentecost, all the good we do in the world, all the courageous stance we take on the social issues and moral values of our time, we will be just another NGO (non-governmental organization).

May God enable us to see strength in our vulnerability, because God's power is made perfect in weakness!

*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.*

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

### *Vestry*

2016 Raymond Forester  
Cindy Hammaker  
Courtenay Williams  
2017 Vincent Giancaterino  
Judi Hans  
Julia Sharpe  
2018 Frank Rothenberger  
Retta Sparano  
Jan Wier

### *How to contact St. Peter's*

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

June 2015

### Table of Contents

p. 1 From the Rector  
p. 2 Deacon's Roundtable  
Summer Worship Schedule  
Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
Children's Worship Programs  
p. 3 Thursday Evening Story Time  
p. 4 Stewardship Corner  
Greetings from the pantry  
p. 5 Financial Update  
p. 6 El Salvador Update  
Ten Things . . . .  
p. 7 June Worship Participants  
June Birthdays; Anniversaries

## Deacon's Roundtable

The great fifty days of Easter came to a close with the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost on May 24. Pentecost was originally a Jewish religious observance which took place fifty days after Passover and commemorates the Feast of the Ingathering (see Exodus 23:16).

We Christians remember it as the day on which God chose to reveal the third person of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit (Ghost). St. Luke, in the second chapter of Acts, recounts the episode for us: “And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they (the Jerusalem Christians) were praying. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” It was essentially the gift of languages that evangelized the world and helped give birth to the Church.

The whole of the New Testament tells how the Holy Ghost (Spirit) is given by Christ to His Church for carrying on His ministry of restoring broken lives and making them ultimately fit for Heaven – despite everything.

Our word “ghost” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *gast*, from which we get our word “gust.” It means a sudden gust of wind. As the Rev. C. Frederick Barbee puts it, “Ghost is the sudden gust of wind that whirls us around to look on the face of God.” “Spirit” is derived from the Latin word *spiritus* which means normal breathing. Not every Christian soul experiences a sudden conversion, thus “Spirit” represents the gradual growth most of us experience, as implied in the Confirmation prayer, “Strengthen, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit; empower her/him for your service; and sustain her/him all the days of her/his life.” If we are to see the Church continue, we must speak in languages our children, peers and fellow workers will understand. God has called each of us to God’s service by filling us with God’s Holy Spirit.

Continue to pray that God’s Spirit will be manifested in each of us.

Blessings in Christ’s name.

*Deacon Joe*

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## Summer Worship Schedule

June 21 through September 6

8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

EXCEPT: June 28

ONE SERVICE ONLY

Patronal Sunday

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## Tuesday Evening Bible Study



Bible Study will be held through the summer months every other Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. beginning June 9.

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## Children's Worship Programs

### Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel will run through June 7<sup>th</sup>. Again we want to thank Danielle Smith for her four years of leadership of this program. She

has done a wonderful job, and we thank her for giving our youngest children such a warm, caring program for their first introduction to worship.

We are currently looking for a new coordinator for this program for next year. This is an important piece of our children's programs. Please contact Jan Wier or Danielle Smith if you would like to discuss this opportunity.

### Godly Play

The last three Sundays of Godly Play are May 17, 24, and 31. We will have an ice cream sundae party on the 31<sup>st</sup> to celebrate our year. Parents are asked to supply sundae toppings. We thank all the Godly Play teachers for their consistent enthusiasm in this program. We see this program growing and growing, and look forward to expanding our circles of stories of the Christian faith, wondering, working, and sharing with even larger groups next year. If anyone is interested in learning more about this program or would like to become a part of the team, please contact Jan Wier, [janwier@comcast.net](mailto:janwier@comcast.net).



### Children's Summer Worship Program

This new program will begin June 21<sup>st</sup> and run through the last Sunday in August. The suggested age group is age 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Younger children may attend with a parent. The general framework will be similar to Children's Chapel. We will have a longer activity time than Children's Chapel as children will begin their morning in the program, and come up to church at the time of the peace when they will celebrate the Eucharist with their families.

We have four core volunteers who will take responsibility for the basic framework of the morning, Kristy Boone, Colleen Bramucci, Danielle Smith, and Jan Wier. More core volunteers are welcome! We are looking for volunteers from the parish to consider bringing a craft, a game, or an activity to the program each week. We already have one couple

coming with their guitar to sing with the children, and another woman is coming to make a craft she enjoys. This is a fellowship opportunity with our children. Please speak up if you can share your interest with the group. We will also need volunteers to provide support and safety to the group.

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## Children's Summer Story Time Outreach Community Project

Jan Wier



The premise for this program is for Phoenixville children who may not have the opportunity to go to a morning story program in the summer at the library because their families may be working should have the opportunity for a story time. The specific population needing this type of program are the folks on the north side of Phoenixville. The idea was for one night a week in the summer to gather outdoors for such a story program.

Fr. Koshy and the Vestry are in support of this program. I have been working and networking with Deacon Dennis and community volunteer, Belinda Goodwin, to build this idea. We have the approval of the Borough of Phoenixville to meet at Friendship Park, near the intersection of Franklin and Fillmore. We plan to hold this each Thursday evening, July 9 – August 20.

Mrs. Goodwin is in contact with area churches that may be interested in providing a light evening meal to go along with this program, making this a very complete fun summer evening out for families. We are working with Rebecca Krause, children's librarian at Phoenixville Library, to help us build our curriculum for the summer. We are even talking about having a few enhanced story times with maybe puppets or costumed characters.

### What do we need?

- Your Prayers and Presence
- Feet on the ground to distribute flyers
- Communication gurus who can help get the word out in other ways
- Large blankets to put on the ground
- A portable wireless microphone set up
- Readers
- Solicitation of local businesses to sponsor a treat at the end of each program, ie. ice cream truck.

### Who do I contact to help with this program?

Jan Wier, [janwier@comcast.net](mailto:janwier@comcast.net)  
 Deacon Dennis Coleman,  
[denniscoleman@gmail.com](mailto:denniscoleman@gmail.com)

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### Stewardship Corner

Diane Hope



Having just celebrated Mother’s Day, I saw a very funny quote in honor of Mothers which asked – “If evolution really works, how come Mothers still only have two hands?” I think truer words were never spoken. Looking back on my life with two young, growing children I now ask myself how did I ever do all that needed to be done? Even for something as simple as school lunches, I calculated that I made over 4,000 lunches for two boys, for 180 school days, for 13 years! But, as Mothers, we all know that there is always a resource of love for our children to draw from, and we just keep on going.

This generosity that we give to family is an offering, and given freely and out of love. No strings attached, no expectations. What a wonderful gift to ourselves it would be if we could expand this generosity to apply to our extended family, our neighbors, our church, our community and beyond. Mother Teresa was also envisioning the power of such a dramatic

possible transition when she said “we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” I think St. Peter’s Church, its many missions, and its stewardship is doing much to help us remember that we really do belong to each other.

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### Greetings from the pantry...



As we head into the summer months, we are holding steady, serving about 100 families. We had "picnic" pantry for Memorial Day...all the fixing's for a cook-out, hot dogs, hamburgers, cheese, rolls and of course fresh veggies and fruit.

We continue to deliver to about 23 people at St. Peter’s Place. We have two very faithful scout troops who alternate delivering food. It is heartwarming to watch these girls arrive early on Saturday morning and gather the food for delivery. The folks at St. Peter's Place look forward to their arrival and to the special attention they receive.

We also have a van that picks up people on the north side who are unable to get to the pantry on their own. Again, it is wonderful to know that the pantry is able to serve those who cannot get to the church.

The Monday night pantry is now serving about 20 people who are unable to attend on Saturday.

We held a "volunteer appreciation" luncheon for all the volunteers from the pantry, breakfast ministry, and Friday lunch. You might see people proudly wearing their tee shirts! We certainly couldn't do it without them. We also could not be as successful without your continued support. For that we are eternally grateful.

*your ever grateful pantry*

## Dollars and Sense



News from your Accounting Warden  
Franklin Rothenberger

The financial position of St. Peter's through April, 2015 is outlined below.

- **Income**

- St. Peter's received \$82,809 in pledges and open plate donations which is slightly below budgeted contributions through April.
- Total operating income was \$102,890 which is about \$9,000 above the budgeted amount of \$93,420.
  - Total income from the Art Auction fundraising event of \$5,852 was included in operating income.
- Total income, including pass-thru income, was \$109,300.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$95,824 which were covered by operating income with a surplus of \$7,066.
- Operating expenses were about \$3,500 under budget through April.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$17,339, were \$113,343 through April.

- St. Peter's reported a deficit of (\$4,043) through April because of pass-through expenses in excess of pass-through income that were sufficiently covered by cash on hand.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances as of April 30, 2015

- Checking: \$2,637
- Savings: \$38,956
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$466
- Pantry/Outreach: \$15,308
- Mission: \$2,386
- Building Maintenance: \$12,036
- Concert Series: \$2,411
- Petty Cash: \$200
  - **Total Cash: \$86,526**

**I would like to extend a special thank you to the Fundraising Committee for organizing the successful Art Auction fundraising event and all of the parishioners that contributed to or attended the event. The Fundraising Committee consists of: Mariel Gniewoz-Weiss; Judith Hans; Julia Sharpe; and Caitlin Rothenberger.**

# El Salvador Mission News

Cindy Hamaker 610-933-3806; chammaker@verizon.net



St. Peter's is looking forward to uniting with Cristosal this July and walking in solidarity with the people there who are struggling. The topic of focus will be on human trafficking and immigration and what amazing work Cristosal is doing to have a positive impact on helping people who are faced with those issues. You can learn more of Cristosal's great work by going to their website at [www.Cristosal.org](http://www.Cristosal.org). The mission trip for this summer is slated for July 11-18th and several openings are available for more missionaries to join the group. Please contact me ASAP if interested in this spiritually enriching learning experience!

Thank you to all who supported the May flower sale. The proceeds from that sale will help to defray travel costs to missionaries. Also, on the horizon, is a golf outing fundraiser at Spring Ford Country Club on October 12<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go towards supporting Cristosal. So please save that date as it will surely be an enjoyable event for all!



Thank you for your support of this invaluable mission of St. Peter's!

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## 10 Things I Love about Saint Peter's

Judi Hans

A few months ago, Father Koshy gave an article to me by Ben Irwin that listed 11 things he loved about the Episcopal Church. The article can be found at <http://benirwin.me/2015/01/22/11-things-about-the-episcopal-church/>

After reading the article, I agreed that I loved the same things about the Episcopal church that Ben Irwin loved. Since David Letterman aired his last show recently, I would like to continue with his top 10 list – in reverse order, of course – about what I love about Saint Peter's:

**#10:** I love the beauty of our worship space, the way the morning light filters through the stained glass windows and illuminates the entire church with vivid colors.

**#9:** I love the music from our precious pipe organ that fills the entire church and my entire being with a range of octaves and a range of emotions.

**#8:** I love that I am surrounded by friends, new and old, who fill the pews and fill my life.

**#7:** I love the children in the church, from the squeals of the newborns being baptized to the children in college. They bring such smiles and energy as the little ones bounce up the center aisle on the way to Godly Play.

**#6:** I love the voices of our talented choir; so many anthems bring me to tears as their voices harmonize to the praise and glory of God.

**#5:** I love how the clergy of Saint Peter's interact with the people and share their time, biblical knowledge, individual talents, and their lives with us.

**#4:** I love that there is a place for everyone in our church. We embrace all unique qualities that make us children of a loving God who embraces each of us.

**#3:** I love the opportunity for service, both within and outside of our church walls that extend to our local, national and international neighbors

**#2:** I love the liturgy; I find its reverence and seamless flow to be soothing.

**#1:** I love the love in our church, the way we know and care for each other through the bad times and rejoice in the good times.

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## June Worship Service Participants

### Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 7 **ONE SERVICE ONLY**  
 14 Joan Grunwell  
 21 Jack Susskind  
 28 **ONE SERVICE ONLY**

### Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 7 **ONE SERVICE ONLY – 10:00 a.m.**  
 14 Ron Gaugler  
 21 Lisa Scott  
 28 **ONE SERVICE ONLY – 9:30 a.m.**

### Acolytes

- 7 Vernet Spence-Brown  
 Katie Parker, Colin Parker  
 14 Brandon Rennie  
 Sydney Alling, Natalia Tackett  
 Megan Magee, Will Brennfleck  
 21 9:30 Phoebe Foerster  
 28 9:30 Julia Sharpe, Thomas Hammaker  
 Megan Magee, James Hammaker  
 Sean Magee

### Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 7 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke  
 14 Penny McClimon, Kim Thornton  
 21 9:30 Cindy Giancaterino, Judi Hans  
 28 9:30 Pat Howse, Marva Young

### Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 7 Georgette Druckenmiller, Susan Mathews  
 Trevor Hall *intercessor*  
 Ron Druckenmiller *chaliceist*  
 Peter Druckenmiller *chaliceist*  
 14 June Blauser, Joanne Arnold  
 David Brennfleck *intercessor*  
 Carol Russell *chaliceist*  
 21 9:30 David Brennfleck, Katie Druckenmiller  
 Vernet Spence-Brown *intercessor*  
 Beverly Burkhardt *chaliceist*  
 28 9:30 Georgette Druckenmiller, David Brennfleck  
 Phoebe Foerster *intercessor*  
 Vernet Spence-Brown *chaliceist*

## Ushers

- 7 Clem Young, Sam Smith  
 14 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker  
 21 9:30 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie  
 28 9:30 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

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## June Birthdays



- [1] Ashley Hans, Stephanie Logar;  
 [2] Madeleine Williams  
 [4] Deacon Williams  
 [6] Anne Atlee, Clara De Prado, Owen Kandle;  
 [8] Dawn Koch  
 [10] Eric Sharpe  
 [12] Lynn Schaefer  
 [14] June Henry, Sonia Rivera  
 [17] JoAnn Arnold, Brock Farnum  
 [18] Cartier and Cayenne Bengochea,  
 Ella Brennfleck  
 [19] Michael Nagy  
 [21] Tracy Parker  
 [23] Karen Tosco, Brittany Alling,  
 Robert Parker  
 [25] Gary Russell  
 [29] Christopher Birkbeck  
 [30] Walter Boone

## June Anniversaries



- [5] Robert and Tracy Parker  
 [7] Edwin and Karen Hartman  
 [10] Mark and Cindy Hammaker  
 [11] Warren Campbell and Marty Bloem  
 [13] Michael and Lauren Nagy;  
 [21] Greg and Sharon Schiele  
 Patrick and Shelly Carney  
 [22] Dave and Sue Meadows  
 Keith and Sherry Farnum  
 [25] Dan and Terri Coleman  
 [26] Lynn and Glynn Fraker