

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 Friends,

Clergy from the diocese recently met, and discussed leadership challenges that they are experiencing in their ministries. One of the most common challenges we identified was in the area of managing conflicts, whether it is between groups within the church or between people and their clergy. It was noted that so much of our energy is spent on this, and in some places these conflicts have taken on a life of their own to the point that church life without conflicts has become an aberration.

It made me think of the story about a few men who lived in a coastal community near a rocky cliff in Maine. This area was bane to seafarers as many had perished over the years in shipwrecks in its shallow waters. The men organized themselves to save the lives of people who were shipwrecked and brought to their shores, and erected a lighthouse on the cliff to serve as a warning to boats to lower the incidents of shipwrecks. When they were not busy saving people, they gathered at the lighthouse to have fun and enjoy fellowship among themselves and their families. They formed and appointed individuals and groups to take care of the lighthouse and its maintenance. Certain people would rescue those lost in the sea, and others would arrange potluck suppers and dances and an annual event of celebration. As time went on, this lighthouse and the activities around it became a major part of the social fabric of the community. One night, as they were holding their annual gala, a ship got wrecked not too far from the lighthouse, and so many people were lost in the sea. Sadly and tragically, no one from the lighthouse was available to save the people, and this incident shook the community. They returned to the core principle on which this lighthouse was founded.

Just as this lighthouse lost its core mission and became self-absorbed, the church could lose its core mission; the reason for which it was originally founded by the early church. Conflicts over minor issues can distract and side-track the church from doing God's mission in the world. By focusing on the Lenten themes of Repent, Return and Renew, let us get back to seeing ourselves, as God would have us doing. How are we as a community? Are we a church organized to conduct its mission of saving and serving people or we a church organized to be concerned about the peripherals and its own survival? As a vestry, we hope to focus on our core mission at its annual retreat in the middle of March.

For us as individuals, the church serves as a place of accountability, helping us to see that we hold on to our personal core values as members of the Church. How do we live our life, what are our priorities? Are work and meeting the demands of our employers our consuming concerns, and what role does faith play in our daily lives in making decisions and choices? How are we serving as role models to our children?

Let us follow the disciplines of Lent and let its resources to repent, return and renew allow us to become more focused on our core values, and more intentional about work, play, prayer, love, and rest.

Blessings of Lent,

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*
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

Office: 610-933-2195
Email: saintpetersphoenix@gmail.com
Web site: www.saintpeterschurch.net

What's Happening At St. Peter's March 2015

Table of Contents

p. 1 From the Rector
p. 2 Deacon's Roundtable
A Word From Deacon II
p. 3 Stations of the Cross
Lenten Services
p. 4 Youth Group Thank You
Art Auction & Raffle
p. 5 Vestry News; Financial Update
p. 6 Mission Outreach
St. Peter's Pantry
p. 7 March Celebrations
Worship Participants in March

Deacon's Roundtable

During my Lenten research I found this portion of a sermon written by Leo the Great who served as Pope of the Church from 440 to 461. I have chosen it to enlighten us further about our works of charity here at St. Peter's Church.

"Dearly beloved, we have been taught by our Redeemer, 'Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word of God,' and so it is right that all Christians, no matter how much they fast, should cultivate the desire to satisfy themselves with the 'Word of God' rather than bodily food. Therefore, let us begin this Lenten season with eagerness, ready to progress in devotion to our Lord, not by an empty fasting or almsgiving, but through generous compassion and good will...."

"Let works of mercy be our delight, and let them be the food that fills us for eternity. Let us rejoice in the satisfaction of the poor when we give of our bounty. Let us delight in the clothing of those whose nakedness we have covered. Let our compassion and generosity touch the sick in their illness or infirmities, the exiles in their hardships, the orphans in their destitution, and the widows in their sadness.... No one's income is small, whose heart is big; and the measure of one's mercy and goodness does not depend on the size of one's means. Wealth and goodwill is never lacking even in a slender purse...."

"Lenten observances, rightly followed, can make hatred turn into affection and enmity turns to peace; wrath can be quenched by meekness, and wrongs forgiven by gentleness. They are a way, my beloved, that God's mercy can enter your life, sins be forgiven, and Easter be rightly celebrated.

"So we should forgive faults, loosen bonds, wipe our offenses, and let go of vengeance. In this way, the Easter festival will find us all happy and innocent by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen." I wish you all a Holy and Blessed Lent.

In Christ's Love, *Deacon Joe*

A Word From Deacon II

Am I dust?

That's what we are told in the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, or so it seems. As the ashes are placed on our foreheads the words are: *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return.*

Quite frankly, I disagree with a literal interpretation here. I am not dust, and neither are you. So what is the point? I am a little more comfortable with the words from the 1928 BCP: *Remember O man (woman) from dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return.*

It's not because of my love for "thees" and "thous", it is the inclusion of the word "from". We are created from the dust of the earth, and will one day return to the earth. But I'm not dust at the moment. So, what's the point? Here is my take on it.

The dust represents the bookends of our life here on earth, the life of our body, a reminder that our life in this body, on this earth, has a sunrise and a sunset. In between the bookends our spirit is carried about by an incredibly complex and wondrous collection of systems that I barely understand. But it is the Spirit that goes beyond respiration, digestion and reproduction.

This Spirit, the one we get to invite into our body, the Holy Spirit, is our potential for beauty. It encourages and allows us to act with the beauty of being a good steward of the planet and of our finances. It is the Spirit that propels us to act with charity, and with love. The Spirit promotes kindness.

This Lent, I am encouraging you to consider not only the dusty work of thinking and growling about what you are giving up, but to keep a Holy Lent by considering what you are giving. While we have the chance, in this time between our dusty periods, let's spread the beauty of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Doing so can only help us to extend this discipline beyond the forty days of Lent.

Deacon Dennis

Stations of the Cross



Designed for devotional purposes, the Stations depict incidents in the last journey of Christ from Pilate's house to His entombment. They are commonly arranged around the walls of a church and, during Lent and Passiontide, we visit the Stations to recite prayers and meditate on each. As the early pilgrims in Jerusalem followed the traditional route from Pilate's house to Calvary, stations were reproduced for similar devotion at home. The 14 Stations are:

1. Christ is condemned to death
2. Christ receives the cross
3. He falls for the first time
4. He meets His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross
6. Christ's face is wiped by a woman
7. His second fall
8. He meets women of Jerusalem
9. His third fall
10. He is stripped of His garments
11. He is nailed to the cross
12. Christ dies on the cross
13. His body is taken down from the cross
14. His body is laid in the tomb

(The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

At St. Peter's we observe the Stations every Friday during Lent at 7PM and on Good Friday at 1:30 PM. The observance of Stations can serve as a point of encounter with God. The danger is that it can be dulled by repetition. However, one of the ways we can revitalize liturgy is through anticipation and expectancy that we are about to have an encounter with God. I hope more of us will make use of the observance of the Stations during this Lent as a discipline to strengthen our relationship to God.

Fr. Koshy

Lenten Opportunities for Worship & Faith Development

Soup Dinners and Lenten Study – 6:30 p.m.

Theme: *Embracing Forgiveness*

Tuesday's through March 24 at the home of Fr. Koshy and Susan

+ + + +



Stations of the Cross Every Friday – 7:00 p.m.

+ + + +



A Service for Reconciliation and Peace **In the world - In our hearts - In our lives**

Sunday, March 15, 2015

During the service, there will be an opportunity for each of us to offer our concerns and desires for reconciliation. To participate, there will be paper and pencils to jot down whatever is in your heart, and then bring that to the front of the church to place in a container to be burned. Special prayers and music for forgiveness and reconciliation will be included in the service.

+ + + +

Phoenixville Community Lenten Worship **Wednesday's - 7:30 pm**

March 4

Bethel Baptist Church
412 Fairview St., Phoenixville
Preacher: Rev. Cynthia Krommes
St. John's Lutheran Church

March 11

First United Methodist Church
865 Main St., Phoenixville
Preacher - Fr. John J. Newns
St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church

March 18

St. John's United Church of Christ
315 Gay St, Phoenixville
Preacher: Rev. Mark Young
First Methodist Church

March 25

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
121 Church St, Phoenixville
Preacher: Rev. Russell Mitman
Parkside United Church of Christ

ALSO

Daily Directed Meditation on-line:
Stop, Pray, Work, Play, and Love
www.SSJE.org/time
Through March 28

§ § § § §

Thank You from the Youth Group



A really **BIG** thank you for supporting the Maine Calling Chain-Links fundraiser, and the Youth Group pancake breakfast.

The February chill did not hinder good fellowship and many a pancake served by members of our Youth Group. In preparation for Lent, this was a fun event where our youth had an opportunity to interact with the St. Peter's family. With your support we were able to raise approximately \$700 from both fundraising events, which will help fund future Youth Group activities.

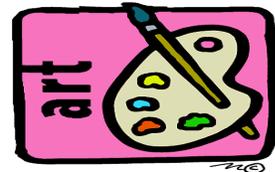


This year, three members of the J2A class will be venturing to Maine for a spiritual journey and pilgrimage. They will take the chain with them as a reminder of the love and support that **YOU**, St. Peter's Parish, have given to them.

§ § § § §

Art Auction and Raffle Fundraiser

April 18, 2015



Please mark your calendars on April 18 to have an evening of fun at Saint Peter's Art Auction and Raffle Fundraiser. It will be held at the church from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, cost is \$15 per ticket or \$25 per pair/couple. The admission tickets will cover the cost of hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and beverages to enjoy while viewing art and sports memorabilia for purchase in the range of \$40 to \$400. The event will feature a live auction and it will be an enjoyable evening for everyone.



It has been awhile since we had a fundraising event at Saint Peter's. This evening will be low pressure to buy art, but it is a great fellowship event to spend a Saturday night with old friends from church and with new friends. There will be opportunities for everyone to help with donations of food and beverages, raffle baskets, and sponsorships. When the people of Saint Peter's come together for an event, it is guaranteed to be a great success and a memorable time.

Vestry News

Mother Nature cancelled our January vestry meeting; we kept in touch via e-mail and Sunday conversations. Special thanks to John Magee and Barbara Endrey who retired from the vestry. February 26 is the vestry reorganization meeting when we welcome new members: Jan Wier, Franklin Rothenberger and Courtenay Williams. Vestry will have the annual Saturday retreat on March 14, when we set goals for the parish.

Parishioners may attend vestry meetings: usual schedule is the 4th Thursday of each month. We meet in St. Margaret's Hall at 7 PM. Watch the bulletin for dates, and know you would be welcomed.



Financial Update January 2015 *from Frank Rothenberger, Treasurer*



The financial position of St. Peter's for January, 2015 is outlined below.

- Income
 - St. Peter's pledges and open plate donations of \$21,587 which is about \$800 better than the budgeted operating income of \$20,830.
 - Total income, including pass-thru income, was \$24K in January.
- Expense
 - Total operating expenses were \$20,741 which were covered by the operating income.
 - Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$4K, were \$24K for the first month of 2015.
- St. Peter's had essentially breakeven income in January with all expenses covered by income.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 1/31/15):

- Checking: \$5,524
- Savings: \$36,455
- Certificates of Deposit: \$11,550
- Youth Group: \$99
- Pantry/Outreach: \$23,525
- Mission: \$1,381
- Building Maintenance: \$11,025
- Concert Series: \$2,363

St. Peter's will build off a good first month of 2015 to have another financially strong year.

Your generous support of St. Peter's mission work and operating expenses is appreciated.

Mission Outreach

Cindy Hammaker chammaker1@gmail.com



The 2015 El Salvador mission is slated for July 11-18. This great mission has been embraced by St. Peter's for the past 8 years as our relationship with Cristosal and its' work and mission remains steadfast. Our experiences with Cristosal are very enriching as missionaries growth in faith and understanding of the lives and culture of those struggling. This year, the focus of our journey will be on understanding the migration and human trafficking crisis - an issue that Cristosal is bold enough to devote much time and energy to. You can learn more about Cristosal's great work by going to www.cristosal.org. There are certainly more openings for this years' mission and new missionaries along with youth in high school are welcome and encouraged to join the group! If interested, you can contact me for more information and please come to the mission meetings with the next meeting scheduled March 12th.

Also, the **Dollar a Day Campaign** is a reflective Lenten activity going on through March with all donations going directly to defray the costs to the El Salvador missionaries. This is a time when you can reflect on how many around the world try to survive on less than \$2 a day. It is hard to imagine, isn't it? Do you think it is possible to give up just one dollar a day for 50 days from Lent season through the Sunday after Easter? Your contribution of that \$1 a day can be put in a designated envelope found in the Narthex and placed in the offering plate on Sunday, April 12th.



Thank you for your focus and attention to this very important and meaningful way that St. Peter's can reach out to serve others in faith and devotion.

St. Peter's Pantry

The Pantry Committee is extremely grateful for all the support the congregation has been giving us these many years. Without your monetary support and generous donations we could not make this a viable ministry to our community. On an average Saturday we are serving about 110 clients, 28 of which are residents at St. Peter's Place next door. Breakfast is also served to the clients as they await the opening of the pantry. On alternate Monday evenings we are serving up to 20 clients with new folks coming in each week. Monday evening pantry provides for those who cannot come out on Saturdays and the Phoenixville United Methodist Church provides a hot meal.



We have been fortunate to receive monetary grants to help us with the purchase of staple food products, fresh vegetables and fruit, and eggs and milk. The only items we do not purchase are **coffee, tea and cocoa**. We get requests for these items almost every week, and we feel we should be using our monetary funds for staples rather than on luxury items. We are asking for donations of these items along with **paper towels and toilet paper**. The items can be placed in the narthex of the church on Sunday and will be stocked in the pantry to supplement our client's needs.

Thank you for your continued support!

§ § § § §

March Celebrations

Birthdays



- [2] Dave Meadows
- [3] Nancy Giampietro
- [11] Seamus Sutter
- [15] Carrie Wanish
- [16] Sydney Alling
- [17] Rachel Schaefer, Malina Weiss
- [20] Frank Rothenberger
- [23] Lauren Nagy
- [28] Anne Andrews, Daniel Morse
- [29] Jack Andrews, Keegan Dorais
- [30] Wendy Vargo, Stephanie Sutter
- [31] Rosemarie O'Rourke

Anniversaries



- [5] Sonia Rivera and Leonel Parada-Perdomo
- [17] Phil and Pat Howse

§ § § § §

Worship Service Participants

March ~ 2015

Acolytes

- 1** Brandon Rennie
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 8** Libby Andrews
Sean Magee, Megan Magee
- 15** Natalia Tackett
Phoebe Foerster, Michael Logar
- 22** Vernet Spence-Brown
Cartier Bengochea, Cayenne Bengochea
- 29** Thomas Hammaker
James Hammaker, Sydney Alling

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 1** Jack Susskind
- 8** Lisa Scott
- 15** Glenn Murray
- 22** Joan Grunwell
- 29** Jack Susskind

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 1** Anne Atlee, Pat Howse
- 8** Robert and June Blauser
- 15** Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 22** Penny McClimon, Kim Thornton
- 29** Cindy Giancaterino, Judi Hans

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 1** Ron Gaugler *lector & chalistic*
- 8** Lisa Scott
- 15** Henry Young
- 22** Lisa Scott
- 29** Todd Jackson

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 1** Trevor Hall, Phoebe Foerster
David Brennfleck *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalistic*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalistic*
- 8** Joyce Paster, Shelly Brennfleck
Jan Wier *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalistic*
- 15** Marty Bloem, Michael Logar
Vernet Spence-Brown *intercessor*
Joann Arnold *chalistic*
- 22** Retta Sparano, Beverly Burkhardt
Curt Quaintance *intercessor*
Carol Russell *chalistic*
- 29** Georgette Druckenmiller,
Ron Druckenmiller
Jan Wier *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalistic*

Ushers

- 1** Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 8** Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 15** Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 22** Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
- 29** John Andrews, Mark Hammaker