

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,

What is 'Vipassana'? The Sanskrit word Ranjit used in his sermon last Sunday is closest in meaning to the word 'discernment.' It is also a meditation practice to gain insight into things that are essential. We struggle a lot in life to distinguish essential from peripheral or secondary. The world we live in constantly throws at us a mishmash of stuff, both good and bad, life-giving as well as life-denying. To sort through this 24/7 bombardment of often competing messages, we need to develop an ability to discern what is essential or life-giving through the practice called mindfulness or 'Vipassana.' We owe to ourselves to gain this insight. The insight that we are beloved of God is no small thing. Jesus says, "You're the light of the world. No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts under a bed, but puts it on lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away."

How are we acting as God's beloved children? Do we let our light shine, or do we keep it under a jar? Are we being good stewards of who we are and what we have? Are we paying attention to and listening to God's calling of our life and our resources? Stewardship is all we do with all that God entrusts to us. In order for God to execute his plan and purpose for our lives, we need to align with God's expectations of us. God wants us to be generous just as He is with us. Stewardship is giving to God. It is a means by which parishioners strengthen their faith or their relationship to God. It should not be viewed as giving money to Church to do the things Church wants to do.

As our church increasingly is becoming more mission and outreach oriented, let us imagine how our absence in Phoenixville would affect our neighborhood today. Our lay and clergy leadership are fully engaged in the life of our neighborhood and community. When people say nice things about St. Peter's, I feel that we are being the lamp on a stand, shedding light to people far and near. Just as we are engaged without, we are engaged within. We have formation programs for all age groups: Children's Chapel, Godly Play, youth group, treble Choir, adult Choir, Bible studies, meditation sessions, etc. We constantly work on improving the quality of our worship experiences. While the capital improvements we made have significantly contributed to the functioning of the church, there are additional projects that require more capital outlay.

As we are entering a new pledging season, let us pay attention to what God's calling us to be. While I know for many of us the Biblical notion of tithing to the church is rather uncomfortable, it is an ideal goal to strive for. May I

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

Vestry

2015 Raymond Forster
Cindy Hammaker
Courtenay Williams
2016 Vincent Giancaterino
Judi Hans
Julia Sharpe
2017 Frank Rothenberger
Retta Sparano
Jan Wier

How to contact St. Peter's

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October 2015

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suggest that each of us incrementally raise our giving each year by a certain percentage till we attain the tithing goal! In addition, I would like to see all of us become pledging members.

I invite you to consider your own personal beliefs and practices of stewardship. My experience has been so spiritually rewarding that I invite you to join me in this journey.

Blessings, *Koshy*



Deacon's Roundtable

For the past few years I have gone on a mini retreat every day with the help of Loyola Press. These three minute retreats help me to center my day.

Before beginning, I pause a few minutes to set aside distractions, take several deep breaths to center myself and place myself in the loving presence of God.

Then follows a brief scripture lesson, i.e., 2 Timothy 3:14: "But you remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it."

This then leads to a brief meditation: "There are many similarities between the times of St. Paul and our own. Living a Christian life was a conscious choice and was not supported by society at large. Christians were faced with many temptations to turn from their beliefs or to grow lax in the practice of their faith. Paul exhorts Timothy (and us) to be faithful to what we have learned and believed about Jesus. Our gathering for Eucharist is a way we strengthen our faith, as well as support one another for our common mission as disciples. Our individual faithfulness builds a stronger faith community."

Following the meditation are usually questions to ponder: "Paul encouraged Timothy to be faithful in his beliefs. How might I encourage

someone today to be faithful?" and, "Where do I find strength for living my Christian faith?"

The retreat ends with a call to pray on your own or use the one suggested: "Loving God, your gift of faith is precious to me. Grant me the grace to live my life in such a way that others may recognize Jesus in me. Amen."

If you are interested in learning more please check out the web site: lyolapress.com/3-Minute-Retreat-faith-is-strength.htm.

I pray that if you do seek this method of retreat it is as rewarding for you as it has been for me.

Blessings in Christ's name.

Deacon Joe



A Word From Deacon II

In the book by Thomas Barnett, *The Diaconate, A Full and Equal Order*, the author describes the life and ministry of the early church simply by saying that the service consisted of sharing The Word, the Eucharist and the Prayers. The rich liturgy that we have now didn't evolve until centuries later. The transformational necessity of being church was demonstrated in the going out. Deacons led this "going out" by seeing to it all of those who desired the Holy meal had it brought to them by a member of the community. Church happened by going out as well as Sunday worship.

Throughout the New Testament when we hear about the work of the church there is very little mentioned about the church worship service. The talk is about the going out. There are stories of the Great Commission and of groups and couples and individuals that understood that the church lived by the practice of going out into the world to spread the Gospel with words and acts of service. The poor and the weak and the lonely were sought out, cared for, and included.

In today's church we tend to think about the good old days as the more recent times when the churches were full, when each family had a regular place to worship. Those were the good old days, and they are gone. Church is a secondary choice to many families as they consider their busy schedules. Too often, it seems to me, we reach back in our memories and hope to fill the church up by what we do inside.

We see this in the churches that work to attract younger folks by being cool. I'm not saying that's wrong, it just doesn't appeal to me. I worry that a high energy worship service can quickly dissipate like a sugar buzz.

We see mainstream churches with very low attendance. City churches are surrounded by people that would not consider joining them in worship. We see churches in suburban towns that hold on fiercely to their traditions, while the town around them changes. Sadly, Sunday attendance dwindles as the new neighbors never find a spiritual home in the church two blocks away.

We also see churches working to hold onto their traditions while they are about the work of change. St. Peter's is such a place. We are inclusive. We open our doors to the community more than any other church that I know. We go about the work of "going out" by opening the doors to all. It's a beautiful thing that I am happy to be a part of.

The church today will survive, and can flourish, by welcoming all, and providing a place where we can demonstrate our faith in service during the week, and then join together on Sunday for the strength and nourishment provided by the Word, the meal, the prayers, and the community. Just like in the old days...

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God

and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:44-47)

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. (Hebrews 13)

Deacon Dennis



Blessing of the Animals - October 4th



The spirit of St. Francis will once again be celebrated at St. Peter's on October 4th at our 10:00 a.m. Family Service with a special children oriented talk by Ms. Ann Tenaglia, a volunteer from the SPCA, West Chester. In her talk, 'Channeling St. Francis,' she will speak about how people can help animals, how they can be safe around animals and about how SPCA is bringing animals and people together.

The liturgy of the Blessing of the pets and animals Service will take place at Reynolds Park, 100 Langford Road, Phoenixville, 3 PM.

<http://www.uptrc.com/2168/Longford-ParkReynolds-Dog-Park>

Let's celebrate the special animals that enrich our lives with their unconditional love. If your pet is not fond of traveling or will find the service at the park 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!

Outreach at St. Peter's is not limited to people!

Meals for St. Mary's Shelter

October 5-9

Jan Wier



St. Peter's is home to many "good cooks" and our cooks are once again asked to prepare meals for St. Mary's Shelter. We are scheduled for Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9th. Please don't think you have to cook alone, ask a friend or relative to join you or even make this a family effort. Contact Jan Wier at janwier@comcast.net to participate in this outreach of St. Peter's Church.



October Music @ St. Peter's



October 25, 2015 4:00 pm

Joe Perry, Organist

Joseph Perry is an active accompanist, recitalist, studio teacher, and church musician in the Delaware Valley. Joe serves the community of St. Francis-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church as organist and minister of music, music specialist at Spring-Ford School District's 8th Grade Center, co-conductor of Spring-Ford's Middle School Choir, associate director of Spring-Ford High School's auditioned Vocal Ensemble, and assistant director of Spring-Ford's award winning Golden Ram Marching Band.

Joe is a proud alum of West Chester University where he holds a BM in music education

studying piano with Dr. Carl Cranmer and conducting with Dr. David Devenney, and Westminster Choir College of Rider University where he received a MM in organ performance studying organ with Alan Morrison, harpsichord and continuo with Dr. Kathleen Scheide, and improvisation with Peter Richard Conte.



Stewardship In All of Us



We all have talents and blessings that we can share with others. It may be a talent to sing, a creative mind, you may be a wiz in the kitchen, perhaps you have plenty of strength and endurance, good health or wealth. These blessings and talents are shared with others in a variety of ways. Donating your time is equally important as making a financial donation to your church.

We all share a small part of this beautiful, ornate church. We can hear and feel the powerful pipe organ. The stained glass creates a dramatic backlight to the morning service. The cathedral ceiling help us realize how small each and every one of us really is. However, without all of us sharing our gifts and blessings with each other and the church, this church cannot survive. This church depends on the labor of many hands and the financial support of all of us. The smallest task or the most modest donation still make all the difference.

The future of our church depends on everyone. Please consider joining a committee and complete a pledge card for 2016. This will allow the church to plan on your donation. All of us can help the church continue its mission and continue to develop and grow.

Dave Brennfleck

Stewardship Committee

Financial Update

News from your Accounting Warden - Frank Rothenberger



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

Income

- St. Peter's received \$162,662 in pledges and open plate donations which is about \$4,000 under budget because of about \$4K in unmet pledges through August. It is expected that pledges will resume after the slower summer months but pledges will be closely monitored going into the final quarter of the year. Open plate donations have slightly exceeded budget.
- Total operating income was \$206,835 which is about \$23,000 above the budgeted amount of \$184,040 primarily because of \$6K in fundraising income and about \$13K reported as miscellaneous income for insurance proceeds from the garage fire claim. The expenses have not yet been incurred for the fire damage repairs; however, the repairs should be completed by the end of September.
- Total income, including pass-thru income of \$33,801, was \$240,635

Expense

- Total operating expenses were \$183,059 which were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$23,776.
- Operating expenses were about \$8,123 under budget through August.
- Total expenses, including pass through expenses of \$27,668, were \$210,727 through August.
- St. Peter's reported net income of \$30,578 through August, or \$17,305 with the insurance proceeds removed.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of August 31, 2015):

- Checking: \$6,937
- Savings: \$52,264
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$24,669
- Mission: \$6,521
- Building Maintenance: \$14,051
- Concert Series: \$2,620
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$120,523**

Please carefully consider your pledges year-to date as we near the final quarter of the year. As always, your generous support of St. Peter's mission work and operating expenses is greatly appreciated.

Friday Lunch Help



Every Friday St. Peter's hosts a free lunch for the underprivileged members of our community. Lunch attendance has been on the rise lately; it's not unusual for us to serve 50+ guests per lunch. In order to keep pace with the growing demand, our St. Peter's Friday Lunch Group could use your help!

Our group is most in need of a couple extra pairs of hands at lunches (on Fridays from approximately 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM).

**Additionally, food contributions are also welcomed. The most helpful contributions include freezable desserts or frozen fruit, and non-perishable individually wrapped goods, such as Power Bars or single-serving chip bags.

If you're interested in helping, or would like more information, please contact Ashley Jaden at ashleyjetjaden@gmail.com.

**This is a fantastic option for those who would like to help out but can't personally attend lunches.



Greetings from the Pantry!



All of the pantry volunteers are happy that the long hot summer is behind us and are looking forward to cool, refreshing fall days! Now that fall is upon us, we know the holidays won't be far behind. As we eagerly await the state to pass the budget, we ask your continued support as our wish list has grown to include baking goods and personal products.

The pantry continues to serve approximately 70-80 families between the Saturday and Monday pantries. Our ever-faithful Girl Scouts continue to serve about 25 residents at St. Peter's Place.

We decided that the folks who come to the pantry deserved a "treat", so we planned a picnic for the last Saturday of August. Approximately 100 people attended and were treated to hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on the grill, chips, a great pasta salad [many thanks Retta for providing], beverages, and home-made desserts. The picnic was a GREAT success thanks to the efforts and generosity of our volunteers.

A young Spring City resident, Juliana Bissell, [who is not connected with the pantry] wanted to do something for others and decided to do a "walk for hunger", which advertised on the internet to raise money. On August 8th she walked 20 miles for the pantry, ending her walk at St. Peter's and presented us with a check for over \$1,200 dollars!! What a very pleasant surprise.

You are always welcome to stop by any Saturday or Monday night to see what a great pantry St. Peter's has and to see it working. We have so many dedicated volunteers, who if asked, will say they get more from the pantry than they give.

God Bless the pantry and all its volunteers!



Mission's Update



October will be an eventful month highlighting the visit of director and assistant of Cristosol, Noah Bullock and Hannah Perles! Noah and Hannah are eager to share their knowledge and

insight of the dire situations of forced migration that people are faced with in El Salvador and Central America, which also has an impact in our country too. Cristosal is a leader in working to mitigate the migration crisis by bringing together a regional network to provide assistance to fleeing families and prevent associated human smuggling and resultant human trafficking.

The golf outing Cristosal fundraiser which had been slated for October 12th was canceled due to anticipated low attendance. However, the missions committee is excited to host an enjoyable and informative evening with Noah and Hannah on October 12th at *The Bistro* on Bridge in Phoenixville from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge and a variety of hors-d'oeuvres will be served. Please **RSVP** ASAP to Gary Russell or Cindy Hammaker. This will be a wonderful way to come out and show your support for the impactful and invaluable work that Noah and Hannah are doing with Cristosal! We are hoping for a great turnout and much energy to be generated as they return to El Salvador to continue their work the following morning.

Noah will also be talking at a Diocesan Leadership event being held that Saturday morning at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Paoli. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

So, much excitement going on this month, and much to learn about and give to this important and integral mission of St. Peter's!



Letter of Membership Transfer

Joann Arnold to Epiphany, Royersford



October Anniversaries



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

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 Scott
- 22] Lindsey, Kaitie, Fiona Craig
- 23] Susan Hyatt
- 24] Bruce Alling
- 28] W. Peter Druckenmiller

October Worship Participants

Acolytes

- 4 James Hammaker
Sydney Alling, Michael Logar
- 11 Brandon Rennie
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 18 Vernet Spence-Brown
Sean Magee, Phoebe Foerster
- 25 Libby Andrews
Julia Sharpe, Natalia Tackett

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 4 Joan Grunwell
- 11 Jack Susskind
- 18 Lisa Scott
- 25 Glenn Murray

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 4 Anne Andrews, Mary Tackett
- 11 Lady Rennie, Mike Logar
- 18 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 25 Anne Atlee, Vernet-Spence Brown

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 4 Lisa Scott *lector*
Lisa Scott *chalicist*
- 11 Henry Young *lector*
- 18 Jack Susskind *lector*
- 25 Lisa Scott *lector*

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 4 To Be Announced – Family Service
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 11 Katie Druckenmiller
Georgette Druckenmiller
Curt Quaintance *intercessions*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
- 18 Vernet Spence-Brown, Joyce Paster
David Brennfleck *intercessions*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
- 25 Shelly Brennfleck, Beverly Burkhardt
Phoebe Foerster *intercessions*
Carol Russell *chalicist*

Ushers

- 4 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 11 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
- 19 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 25 Bruce Alling, James Tackett

Mental Gardening

Author Unknown

In the Garden of Behavior you should:

Plant 5 Rows of peas . . .

Prayer

Promptness

Politeness

Perseverance

Preparedness

No Garden is complete without Turnips . . .

Turn up for Church

Turn up with a Smile

Turn up with a new Idea

Then 3 rows of Squash . . .

Squash gossip

Squash criticism

Squash indifference

Next to the Squash, plant 4 rows of lettuce . . .

Let us be unselfish

Let us be loyal

Let us be truthful

Let us love one another

Such a Mental Garden planted, cultivated and harvested at regular intervals will make your life a light in the world.