

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 of St. Peter's,

In another week it will be Holy Week, inarguably the most holy, liturgically important and spiritually significant time for all of us. I trust your Lenten journey so far has been a blessing to you. Lent leads us to Holy Week and Holy Week takes us to Easter. To fully experience the joy of Easter, one must undergo the rigors of Lent and the passion of Holy Week. Unfortunately, the materialistic society we live in makes it difficult for us to fully observe the practices of Christian high holy days. As a matter of fact for many in our culture, the time between Christmas and Easter is a fly-over period. Many of the spiritually important days are ignored because they don't carry any commercial value to the traders and moneychangers who run the temple of the golden calf. It is ironic that in our country, which was founded on Judeo-Christian values, school vacation is conveniently given during the Christian Holy Week making it difficult for people to not consider taking family vacation. To counter this general attitude I suppose that we, as Christians, have to be extremely intentional in observing our religious and spiritual practices during our high holy days.

Holy Week begins with Passion Sunday. On this day when we reenact in church the triumphant arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem shouting, "Hosanna," which then is quickly followed with the reading of the passion narrative of seemingly tragic developments of the arrest of Jesus, the mock trial, abuse and torture and ends with Jesus' death on the cross. As the week progresses, on Maundy Thursday we gather for the reenactment of Passover meal and Jesus' washing of the feet of his disciples. On Good Friday, we somberly recall and reflect on all the Stations of the Cross to the crucifixion and then on the death of Jesus on the cross. And on Saturday after the sunset, we gather in the dark by blessing the paschal candle and light, reading scriptures detailing God's acts of redemption through the history of God's people, by renewing our baptismal vows and by declaring Christ's ultimate victory over death by shouting out, "Alleluia, Christ is risen." And our celebration continues on Easter Sunday morning and beyond.

There is so much grace to experience in these coming days. The opportunities afforded us are innumerable for us to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. However, the question is, do we make time to intentionally enter into this time of recalling the path of Jesus to suffering, death and resurrection. Yes, it is true for the cultural Christianity of our time the observances of Holy Week and Easter are inconveniences getting in the way of vacations, children's sports, or making a living. Materialism outlaws religion, and institutionalism dominates spirituality. Somehow, we must reclaim our faith, its practices and traditions from getting forever lost in the thick fog of the Godless worldview of our secular society

Let us make it a point that this year we attend all the special services associated with Holy Week and Easter. And as we do, I pray that we truly experience the love of God that made Jesus go through the sufferings and death, the grace of God that forgave us, and pure joy of resurrection that gives us the hope for a life beyond the death dealing powers of this world.

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

Very Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, *Rector*
Rev. Joseph Dietz, *Deacon*
Rev. Dennis Coleman, *Deacon*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Karen Greene, *Music Director*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*
Maria Yanez, *Sexton*

Vestry

2018 Frank Rothenberger
Retta Sparano
Jan Wier
2019 Raymond Forester
Karen Martz
Brian Prato
2020 Judi Hans
Vincent Giancaterino
Julia Sharpe

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What's Happening At St. Peter's April 2017

Table of Contents

p. 1 From the Rector
p. 2 Deacon's Roundtable
Easter Altar Flowers
p. 3 Holy Week Schedule
Meals for St. Mary's Shelter
Music@St. Peter's
April Stewardship-Eco Forum
p. 4 Reflections on Retirement
Recent Letters
p. 5 April Celebrations
p. 6 Worship Service Participants
p. 7 Financial Update

Deacon's Roundtable

During my prayer and meditation time last week I came across this quote from Blessed Charles de Foucauld: "Let us concern ourselves with those who lack everything, those of whom no one thinks. Let us be the friends of those who have no friends."

This reminded me of the parable that Jesus relates in the Gospel of Luke 16:19-31, the story of the rich man and Lazarus. This parable shows us how much God cares for the poor of this world. It is a moving story, but what does it have to do with us?

Throughout our biblical studies we learn that God's covenant with Israel depended on how God's people treated the poor and unprotected—the widow, the orphan and the stranger. They were not to separate their religious practices from their relationship to the least among them. And neither should we.

There is no getting around it. God wants us to work together to improve the situation of society's weakest members. In the end, the moral strength of any community will be measured by how we have treated our most vulnerable citizens in our midst.

This option for the poor asks us to put the needs of those who struggle ahead of our own. It asks us to guard against growing more comfortable while millions continue to live in grinding poverty. It calls us to ask what we can do to alleviate the suffering of those who lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, education, and health care. But it's not just a series of demands. There is also the confidence that we can help bring justice to the world. We are more powerful than we think.

What might all of this mean for our lives? Perhaps we could think about how we spend our money and our free time. We could make the effort to take our family to serve the poor or the homeless together. We could go through our closets and donate the extra clothes and blankets we have been accumulating. We could be an advocate for someone at Good Samaritan

Shelter or become more involved in the Food Pantry or the lunch program. God continually puts people in front of us whom God wants us to assist. Matthew tells us in Chapter 25 that when we have ministered to the least of God's people we have ministered to God.

We pray: Jesus, gather the poor and needy into your protective arms and help us to treat them as we would treat you. Amen.

I pray you all have a Blessed Easter.

Deacon Joe

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Altar Flowers For Easter



You are invited to share in the joy of beautifying our church for the Easter Season. There is **NO** suggested contribution. Please, return this form to the parish office, or place it in the weekly offering plate in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" *by Sunday, April 9*. Please make checks payable to St. Peter's Church. All names will be printed in the Easter bulletins.

Please PRINT clearly all names.

In memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Envelope Number: _____

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Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday + April 13

7:30 p.m. Eucharist; Foot Washing
9:00 p.m. Vigil until 1:30 p.m. Friday

Good Friday + April 14

1:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
2:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday + April 15

7:30 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter; Baptism

Easter Day + April 16

8:00 a.m. Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

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Meals for St. Mary's Shelter

April 10-14



Volunteers are once again needed to prepare meals for St. Mary's Shelter. You do not have to prepare a meal "alone", make this a family event or ask a friend or relative to join you. If you are able to prepare a meal or have any questions please contact Jan Wier at janwier@comast.net.

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Music @ St. Peter's Presents:

Trevor Gordon Hall, April 2- 4:00 p.m.



St. Peter's member and guitarist, Trevor Gordon Hall, sets himself apart by leaving no physical aspect of the guitar untouched and weaving together different textures into grand, yet intimate, lyrical compositions. His blend of each sound does not overcomplicate, but focuses on utilizing the instrument's fullest creative and compositional potential.

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April Stewardship Message



In the month of April, as we welcome the beauty of the newly arrived spring season, we at St. Peter's Church can turn our stewardship efforts toward the care and protection of the beautiful Earth. The newly formed environmental group at the church is offering an event here at the church on Sunday, April 23 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. which will feature community speakers on such topics as "The Beauty of our World in our Backyards", "The Earth is the Lord's" and "Our Plate: Slowing Global Warming with Taste". In addition to these interesting speakers for adults there will be projects for youngsters and a screening of a relevant documentary for teens. Light vegetarian snacks will be provided.

This event is open not only to St. Peter's members but to the entire community. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, the 23rd and invite friends and neighbors to join in the fun and education.

Reflections on Retirement

February 26, 2017

Hear these few selected sentences from Ecclesiastes, chapter 3:

For everything its season, and for every activity under heaven its.....time.

- A time to be born and a time to die;
- A time to plant and a time to uproot;
- A time to pull down and a time to build up;
- A time to weep and a time to laugh;
- A time for mourning and a time for dancing;
- A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
- A time for silence and a time for speech.

I will add one of my own; a time to step up and a time to step down.

For everything its season, and for every activity under heaven.....its time. I want to share with you my thoughts on that last affirmation; “a time to step up and a time to step down.” During these 11plus years at St. Peter’s I have indeed exercised a time of “stepping up.” I have shared the sacramental and pastoral opportunities at St. Peter’s with Fr. Koshy, served as interim rector during the rector’s sabbatical and each year while he is on vacation. Sunday by Sunday I have shared the spoken portions of our worship experiences.

I now want to share with you the last portion of that statement; a time to step down. The rhythms of life influence each one of us. The writer of Ecclesiastes rightly summarized some of the rhythms of life. They reflect the way God has chosen to create his universe. One of our life tasks is to become aware of, respect and respond to those rhythms. Please note, I am moving back into the ranks of being a fully retired priest of the Church. I will no longer be sharing in the leading of public worship, preaching or attending to the behind-the-scenes details that support our worship. One might call this move a “re-retirement.” The rhythms of life have clearly taught me that this day of stepping back has surely come.

This step is not without its pain and ambivalence. This St. Peter’s family has become

almost as important to me as my primary family. I want to reassure each of you that your concerns, your hopes and fears are as important to me today as they have ever been. Although my time and energy to respond is diminished, your importance to me is as strong as ever. In taking this step back, it must be said, I have without question received so much more from this parish than I have ever been able to give. That imbalance startles and humbles me to this hour.

So take heart! St. Peter’s is in a very good place and on a very significant path forward. It is blessed with excellent leadership of clergy and laity. It is becoming a model of what it means to be a genuine church; “where loving and serving are one.”

My warmest blessings to each one of you.

Fr. David Hyatt

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Fr. Mathews recently received these
letters of appreciation

Father Koshy,

I really appreciated your sermon this morning. Keeping hope can be difficult given the current events in our country and I, for one, needed a boost.

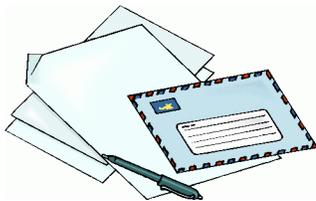
I liked how you touched on privilege and hope others picked up on it too. I think it's incumbent upon those of us who have privilege to use it for good and to raise our children to recognize it and to leverage it by standing up for and helping others. I see this happening at St. Peter's and it warms my heart.

These are scary times even for this white, straight, educated, middle class, Christian woman. I worry about my dear friends who are Jewish and another dear friend who is African

American and she and her husband are raising a wonderful son who is also my son's friend. I also worry for my gay friend and for my Mexican immigrant neighbors.

I am so proud to be a member of St. Peter's and to raise my children in this faith with this church community. I've always loved the diversity, love, acceptance and emphasis on service at St. Peter's, and now more so than ever. I believe we are stronger together and I thank you for reinforcing that and encouraging us.

A parishioner,
December 11, 2016



Dear Rev. Mathews,

I enjoyed meeting you on February 19, when I visited St. Peter's to observe a Godly Play class for a training I'm doing. I've already told Jan how much I appreciate her accommodating me and for letting me sit in on the class. She was so helpful, as were the teachers I had the opportunity to talk with.

I also want to thank you. Apart from my own church, I have never felt so truly welcomed at any other house of worship I have been in, and I have visited many. It was obvious – from the big safety pin on the sign, to the morning's welcome, you walking over to me to pass the peace, the readings, hymns and sermon, the heartfelt invitation to share in Communion – that St. Peter's is a congregation that strives to truly follow Jesus' path. The sense of inclusivity I felt remains a bright spot that I carry with me.

Thank you so much for an inspiring morning.

Pam Baxter,
February 28, 2017

April Celebrations



- [1] Andrew Quaintance
- [4] John Burkhardt
Susan Murray,
Brian Thornton
- [7] Karen Martz
Steve De Prado
- [8] Michael Logar
- [9] Katie Parker
- [14] Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews
- [15] Trey Foerster
Rebecca Martz
- [16] Adam Schaefer
Desiree Hatton
- [17] Amy Foerster
- [18] Erica Logar
Hannah Druckenmiller
- [20] Sean Mitten
Dennis Coleman
- [21] Mary Lynn Kessler,
Blake Pongras
- [23] Emma Martz
Colin Holbrook
- [27] Joyce Paster
Brian Martz

Anniversaries



- [3] Raymond and Amy Foerster
- [14] Ron and Georgette Druckenmiller
- [25] John and Beverly Burkhardt
- [30] Christopher and Megan Wilson

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Worship Service Participants in April

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 2 Glenn Murray
- 9 Lisa Scott
- 16 Joan Grunwell
- 23 Volunteer Needed
- 30 Glenn Murray

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 2 Lisa Scott
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 9 Anne Holbrook
- 16 Ron Gaugler
- 23 Henry Young
- 30 Anne Holbrook

Acolytes

- 2 Frank Rothenberger
Mali Warren, Emma Martz
- 9 James Hammaker
Phoebe Foerster, Isaac Nagy
- 13 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 14 2:00 Vernet Spence-Brown
- 15 7:30 Sydney Alling
Emma Martz, Mali Warren
- 16 Libby Andrews
Phoebe Foerster, Try Foerster
Brandon Rennie, Christian Wenger
- 23 Ryan Sutter
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 30 Sydney Alling
Isaac Nagy, M.J. Kiernan

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 2 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- 9 Anne Atlee, Kim Thornton
- 13 7:30 Judi Hans
- 14 2:00 Judi Hans
- 15 7:30 Vernet Spence-Brown
- 16 Pat Howse, Marva Young
- 23 Cindy Giancaterino, Lady Rennie
- 30 Anne Andrews, Mike Logar

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 2 Trevor Hall, Phoebe Foerster
Jan Wier *intercessor*
Peter and Ron Druckenmiller *chalicists*
- 9 Mona Chylack, Jolie Chylack
Louis Steffenhagen *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*
- 13 7:30 Karen Martz, Susan Mathews
Curt Quaintance *intercessor*
Louis Steffenhagen *chalicist*
- 14 2:00 Retta Sparano, Georgette Druckenmiller
Carol Russell *chalicist*
- 15 7:30 Ron Druckenmiller, Catherine Wenger
Leo Guen, Karen Martz
Kent Wenger *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 16 Beverly Burkhardt, Louis Steffenhagen
Michael Logar *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 23 Todd Jackson, Vernet Spence-Brown
Joyce Paster *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 30 Mali Warren, David Brennfleck
Shelly Brennfleck *intercessor*
Joyce Paster *chalicist*

Ushers

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

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Financial Update – February, 2017

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through February 2017 is outlined below.

- Income
 - Total open plate donations through February were \$2.6K and pledge income was \$45,564. Pledge income continues to exceed budget but is offset by open plate donations less than expected.
 - Total operating income was \$54,259 after removal of pass-through income of \$7,442, which is slightly higher than expected.
 - Total income was \$61,701 through February.

- Expense
 - Total operating expenses were \$49,175 after removal of pass-through expenses of \$6,824.
 - Operating expenses continue to be close to budgeted expenses of \$46,759.
 - Operating expenses through February were sufficiently covered by operating income with a surplus of \$5,084.
 - Total expenses were \$55,999.

- Total expenses were sufficiently covered by total income with a surplus of \$6,059.

Additional detail on income and expenses is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 2/28/17):

- Checking: \$7,906
- Savings: \$39,066
- Certificates of Deposit: \$12,126
- Youth Group: \$1,136
- Pantry/Outreach: \$8,942
- Mission: \$3,801
- Building Maintenance: \$37,319
- Concert Series: \$4,681
- NEW Capital Campaign: \$33,172
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$148,350**

Thank you all for your continued and generous support of St. Peter's.