

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,

Last Sunday, we officially welcomed over 20 new members into St. Peter's. I understand that there are at least as many more who couldn't be there on this occasion. We welcomed them on a Sunday when our gospel lesson was about the ministry of the Holy Spirit as Paraclete: as someone who walks alongside in solidarity. It means those of us who are already members of St. Peter's are responsible in being a paraclete to those who are new and joining our rolls. How exciting and wonderful to see our church growing in numbers and ministry engagements! I am truly grateful to the work of the New Member Ministry/Growth Committee in making this an annual service of new member liturgy a success.

Well, summer is upon us. In another couple of weeks, our program year will ease into a more relaxed summer mode. All the Sundays in June are significant because of their transitional aspect. First Sunday (June 4) is Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church and the last Sunday (June 25) is our Patronal Sunday. We will celebrate Pentecost with a couple of baptisms and sending off prayers for Louis Steffenhagen, our deacon in formation, and for our missionaries to El Salvador: Jimmy Hammaker, Catherine and Jeremy Wenger, Jolie Chylack, Cindy Hammaker and Gary Russell. On the second Sunday in June, we will celebrate the graduations of our High School seniors: Libby Andrews, Brandon Rennie and Catherine Wenger. They are set to preach on that Sunday. And on the third Sunday, the 3rd ordination anniversary of Deacon Dennis and the last Sunday he is with us as our deacon, we will hear him preach and we will say sending off prayers for him.

While transitions are exciting they are also difficult. They mean changes to the status quo and to the familiar. They anticipate something new, different and unfamiliar. Without letting go of the familiar past we cannot embrace the new unfamiliar future. While our high school graduates are excited about moving to new schools and places for higher education and new endeavors, they are also anxious about leaving home and the familiar surroundings for the first time. We wish them well in their education and future endeavors.

We thank Louis Steffenhagen who will be transitioning to a new place for formation in June. We are happy to have served as the first field placement site for Lou in his deaconate formation. We are grateful to him for his participation in our worship services and for his thoughtful sermons. We wish you God's guidance, Lou, as you continue with your formation and look forward to your deaconate ordination next year.

It is time to say goodbye to Deacon Dennis. We are his home church. Normally a deacon doesn't get to serve his/her home parish until retirement.

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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

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

How to contact St. Peter's

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

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So we are fortunate to have him with us the last three years since his ordination in 2014. In the last three years, Deacon Dennis served us well as a deacon, preacher, Bible Study leader, and as mentor to our children. He served as the face of our church in the community. He served as a friend to the homeless in Phoenixville. He played a major role in starting Anne's Heart, a code blue shelter for the homeless during the winter months. His work as a liaison between St. Peter's and Good Samaritan Shelter made us closer to each other. His passion and effectiveness in helping the poor and needy have come to the notice of the diocese, and so the bishop has appointed him to serve the deacon at the New Mission of St. John in Norristown, in our own Valley Forge Deanery. We wish him well in his new ministry.

Let us uphold all those who are dear and near to us, and are transitioning into new phases in their life and ministry and pray for God's guidance and presence as they move on. Let us also pray God's discernment for us as how to serve in accompanying others in their journey forward.

With much love and prayers, *Koshy*

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Deacon's Roundtable

I want to share something with you this month that is very dear to my heart. That is my annual retreat at St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills, Malvern. St. Joseph's is the largest privately owned retreat house in the country. It is owned and operated by the Men of Malvern and sits on over 200 acres just south of the town of Malvern on Warren Avenue. The retreat house is over 100 years old and was started by a group of catholic men who found great solace in spending a quite weekend with their Lord. I have been attending these retreats for over 30 years and find them to be spiritually rewarding. It was here that the Lord spoke to me and confirmed that He was calling me to the ordained ministry.

St. Joseph's is a retreat house. On a daily basis we "charge" into problems, concerns, illnesses, disagreements, tragedies and troubles. St. Joseph's is a place that for forty-two hours a person can stop charging and begin retreating. A retreat, by definition, is one's ability to find a place of safety in a time of danger.

Secondly, St. Joseph's is a holy place. It is a place where men have been praying for over 100 years. It is a place where God dwells and speaks in His way which very often is not our way. It is not a magic place where people come to leave their emotional, physical, spiritual, mental crutches, blindness and deafness. This may happen and the "miracles of Malvern" occur often, but they are consequences of what happens at this holy place not the primary reason for being here. They are secondary as any gift is secondary to the giver and to the one who receives.

So why make a retreat? Primarily, it is because God wants to speak to you. In order to listen to Him we need to retreat to a place of safety within, a place where God dwells, a real place where we meet God as He reveals Himself. Then and only then we begin to know God as He wants to be known and to "know ourselves as God knows us" (1 Cor. 13:2).

The old adage is, "I go to church every Sunday, why do I need a retreat?" Retreat allows us to experience God in a new and different way. Retreat allows us to slow down. It helps us take a look at our lives and where we are going.

I pray that our Lord will lead you to Him through this exercise in quiet spiritual devotion. Men and young men who may be interested are encouraged to see me after church or give me a call at my home (610)323-1033. Our retreat weekend this year is on July 21, 22 and 23. I'm looking forward to having you join me and our Lord. It may change your life.

Deacon Joe

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A Word From Deacon II

Our good Bishop Gutierrez has thought it best to send me to work with the folks in Norristown, at St. Johns Church. It is my pleasure to do so.

Please know that the last three years have been a true blessing for me. Not many people are privileged to serve at the church of their youth. When you see my grandchildren in at St. Peter's, they represent the fourth generation of my family to worship there. I have been honored to be there with you, for this chapter of life.

As I go, I leave you with the Hebrew word Mizpah, which means "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another."

Much love, *Deacon Dennis* Mizpah!

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Youth Concert at St. Peter's Sunday June 11 - 4:00 p.m.



Chester County Children's Choir (C4) allows youth to sing with and befriend fellow vocalists from other elementary and middle schools across Chester County. This opportunity to express in an emotionally safe space leads to stronger group ties and a sense of community.

C4 performs a diverse repertoire of choral music, broadening students' understanding of different cultures, religions, and genres. When exploring songs from different cultures, we are given opportunities to navigate into different worlds and learn about others. We may also be invited to challenge the cultural and

ethnic stereotypes that were previously learned, and ultimately, see changes within ourselves.

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Update from the Mission Committee



The missions committee has been meeting monthly and the energy is flowing as preparations are focused on the youth trip with Cristosal's Global School slated for June 24th to July 1st. Please **mark your calendars for a Jamaican Dinner on June 17th from 6 to 9 at St. Peter's!** This evening of great food, fellowship, song and dance will raise funds to defray the costs to our missionaries. There are 3 youth and 3 adults from St. Peter's going along with another youth and adult from outside of St. Peter's. The focus of the experience will be on human rights and youth leadership as the youth learn about social justice issues of the poor and how to become more proactive in serving to mitigate those issues. This is an amazing opportunity that St. Peter's is offering our youth and thank you in advance for your support in making it happen!

There is another great opportunity to participate in Cristosal's Global School this October 2-9, St. Peter's would like to send an adult group to a seminar entitled Human Rights Reconciliation and Faith. Our group would merge with others in the United States to learn and grow in faith and understanding together. If interested in this exciting opportunity, please contact Gary Russell: grussell-21@hotmail.com. To learn more about Cristosal you can go to www.cristosal.org

So as you can see, many great things are happening at St. Peter's and thank you for your faithful participation and support to make it all happen!

Strawberry Social Hour



For many years, Saint Peter's hosted an annual Strawberry Social in June. Please join us during fellowship hour on June 18 to revisit our past and hopefully continue the tradition into the future. If weather permits, we will have our Strawberry Social outside, on the lawn between the church and the parking lot. Please come!

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ONE SERVICE ONLY - 10:00 a.m.
Patronal Sunday - June 25

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Greetings from the pantry!



My favorite time of year, the flowers are all blooming and not wilting from the heat....yet.

I'm sure you have all heard that there might be major cuts to the federal food stamp program and federal food grants. Who knows if or when these cuts will take place or even how they will affect the pantry. We are now feeling the effects from last year's cuts, as the fiscal year is ending and Chester County Food Bank has limited offers until July.

We are confident that there will be little change to the pantry due to the generosity of the parish.

We ask that when you go shopping pick, an extra non-perishable item just in case. We will continue to offer at least 10 choices, and want to continue with the special extras like baking goods and personal products. Check the bulletin and the weekly email blasts for any gaping holes we might have.

We have a strange request at the moment. We received a lot of 8oz. cranberry juice concentrate that needs to be diluted to 48oz. Some folks are hesitant to take it as they have nothing to mix it in. We would like to gather some new plastic containers, so in your shopping travels if you could pick one up, that would be great. This is a one time request.

I hope everyone takes time to enjoy the beautiful spring flowers that God has provided.

God bless you all!

Your ever faithful pantry.

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Broken Open



I have recently returned from a wonderful visit to Pasadena, California to visit my son, who lives there. We picked a perfect time to visit as the local Jacaranda trees were in bloom, showing off their large vibrant purple flowers. Having never seen this species of tree before, they were a beautiful sight to behold. We are given such a glorious gift year after year with the full bloom of Spring. With bulbs emerging and trees budding, there is a true breaking open of nature in Spring.

I enjoy a quote by the noted Christian writer, Vance Havner, who states: *"God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give*

bread, broken bread to give strength.” Perhaps this suggests that broken things can be seen as the needed harbinger of new things to come. Like the falling Jacaranda petals, I hope to embrace the beautiful simplicity that life is built upon, while never forgetting how truly fragile it all is.

Diane Hope, Stewardship Committee

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Who's Who?



The Rev Dr. Asha George-Guiser

I was born as the third child to my parents in Kuwait since my dad, who is from Kerala, India was working for the Kuwait Oil company in the 1940s. When I was ten, we returned to Kerala and I attended the MarThoma (orthodox church) in my home town where I learned to appreciate the presence of God in worship and learned the stories of the Bible in Sunday school. I was deeply transformed by the love and care of the Roman Catholic nuns at my local school where I loved learning and serving others. My parents instilled the Indian culture by building a dance school on our property and my sister and I excelled in classical Indian dancing and I used the art of dancing in liturgy and developed liturgical dance troupes in my ministry.

At age 16, I was blessed to receive a full tuition scholarship to Neuman university as a pre – med major to come to the USA. I wrestled with my faith and the patriarchal rigid systems of the MarThoma church during my college years and realized there was no room in the inn for me as a woman of faith in my home church. I was sponsored by the Lutherans and chose to

become a Lutheran while serving in Camden, New Jersey. Upon rejection from medical school, God called me to ordained ministry and I graduated from Lutheran Theological seminary in 1982, I was ordained as the first Asian woman clergy in the Lutheran church in the world on May 15, 1982. I completed my Doctorate in marriage and family therapy in 1994. God used me as his servant to serve as youth pastor, adult faith formation coach, , teacher and director , preacher for the national Lutheran assembly, national staff person for clergy vocation and mobility, assistant to the local bishop , assistant pastor for 30 years with my husband , The Rev. Kim Guiser at a local church and presently for the past 17 years being a licensed Christian counselor in practice in Blue Bell. Kim and I have a 22-year-old daughter, Preeya who is a student at Northeastern University in Boston.

When my husband and I retired in June 2016 from parish ministry, Deacon Dennis Coleman had invited us to visit St Peter’s. We were drawn to St Peter’s by its mission, compassion for the poor, liturgy and most of all its hospitality to a very diverse community. My two favorite scriptures that form, transform and reform me are:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the poor; extend hospitality to strangers.
(Romans 12:12-13)

You are blessed when you are at the end of the rope. With less of you, there is more of God and his rule.
(Matthew 5:3)

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Summer Worship Schedule



July 2 through September 3

8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

June Worship Service Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 4 Joan Grunwell
 11 Lisa Scott
 18 Glenn Murray
 25 **ONE SERVICE ONLY - 10:00 a.m.**

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 4 Lisa Scott; Lisa Scott *chalicist*
 11 Henry Young
 18 Ron Gaugler
 25 **ONE SERVICE ONLY - 10:00 a.m.**

Acolytes

- 4 Frank Rothenberger
 Sean Magee, Isaac Nagy
 11 Ryan Sutter
 Katie Parker, Colin Parker
 18 Michael Logar
 Sydney Alling, Libby Andrews
 25 Phoebe Foerster, Brandon Rennie
 Isaac Nagy, Trey Foerster,
 Coleman Nagy

Greeters - 10:00 am

- 4 Marva Young, Cindy Giancaterino
 11 Anne Andrews, Lady Rennie
 18 Judi Hans, Vernet Spence-Brown
 25 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke

Lectors - 10:00 am

- 4 Susan Mathews, Leo Guen
 Curt Quaintance *intercessor*
 Louis Steffenhagen *chalicist*
 Carol Russell *chalicist*
 11 Carol Russell, Mali Warren
 Catherine Wenger *intercessor*
 Joyce Paster *chalicist*
 18 Vernet Spence-Brown, Marty Bloem
 Jolie Chylack *intercessor*
 Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
 25 David Brennfleck, Shelly Brennfleck
 Beverly Burkhardt *intercessor*
 Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*

Ushers

- 4 Clem Young, Sam Smith
 11 Vincent Giancaterino, Robert Parker
 18 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
 25 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
 [8] Dawn Koch
 [10] Eric Sharpe
 [12] Lynn Schaefer
 [14] June Henry, Sonia Rivera
 [17] Brock Farnum
 [18] Cartier and Cayenne Bengochea,
 Ella Brennfleck
 [19] Michael Nagy
 [21] Tracy Parker
 [23] Brittany Alling, Robert Parker
 [25] Gary Russell
 [30] Walter Boone

June Anniversaries



- [5] Robert and Tracy Parker
 [7] Edwin and Karen Hartman
 [10] Mark and Cindy Hammaker
 [13] Michael and Lauren Nagy
 [19] Matthew and Annette Kiernan
 [21] Greg and Sharon Schiele
 Patrick and Shelly Carney
 [22] Dave and Sue Meadows
 Keith and Sherry Farnum