

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,

Once again, we are at that time of year when we are reminded of recommitting ourselves to support the work of our faith community. We often wrongly refer to this time as the Stewardship Season. There is no particular season set apart for stewardship; it is all the time.

We are called to live a life of stewardship. How can we be good stewards only sometimes and not so at other times? Being a good steward means being thankful, and acknowledge that whatever we are blessed with having for a time is a gift from God. We owe to God everything we have beginning with our very own life. It is when we take what we are and what we have for granted as if for some reason we inherently deserve or merit them we become prey to ingratitude and not being good stewards.

This year's Monsoon brought incessant rain to Kerala, the state in India Susan and I come from, for over a period of two months resulting in catastrophic flood, mudslides, breaching of dams and great loss. Over a million people had to be evacuated to shelters or homes of relatives including my own family. Though army, navy and air force were deployed on time and did a great job in saving lives, the work of the thousands of volunteers was especially noteworthy. Among the many stories reported, the ones that stood out for me were how the flood equally affected rich and poor, the privileged and under privileged, the elites and the slum dwellers. They all had to share the same facilities for days, they all had to reach out their hands to get food, clothing and personal items. It was a great democratizing experience. In the shelter everybody was treated equally, no claims of class, caste, creed, or privileges.

The Kerala flood made me think about the grace of God. Am I thankful to God for my relative safety, health, and well-being? It is reported that in the US one in three persons are one paycheck away from homelessness. Sometimes it is statistics like this that make us realize how precarious a life we live day in and day out and appreciate the flow of God's love and grace we experience in our daily life. As Christians we also know that we are not simply the ultimate destination of this flow. Rather we find ourselves enjoying the flow in the midstream and then become channels of this flow into others. We are both receivers and givers. When I think of stewardship it is this image that comes to my mind. We benefit from God's gifts in our lives and then we bestow it on others.

Our faith community is made up of people who find themselves in the midstream of God's grace and love. The grace and love we experience in God are expressed both in our joyful worship on Sundays and our transformational service to others in community, be it in our immediate neighborhood or in faraway places like El Salvador.

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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*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Michele Engle, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Derek Maninfor, *Music Director*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*

Vestry

2019 Raymond Foerster
Karen Martz
Henry Young
2020 Judi Hans
Vincent Giancaterino
2021 Shelly Brennfleck
Frank Rothenberger
Jan Wier

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October 2018

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In the month of October, as a church, we are asking our members to recommit themselves to God in a transformational way by making a pledge of support to the work of our church. It is a voluntary expression of how God is endowing us with His gift of grace and love. May our giving to church help the flow of God's grace to others and may it transform us and our church!

In Christ's love, *Koshy*



Deacon's Roundtable

September 14 was the Feast of The Exaltation of the Cross. It is also one of the four ember days in which postulants and candidates for Holy Orders write a letter to their bishop to let him/her know how they are doing with their formation. I remember writing those letters to Bishop Bartlett over 25 years ago and looking forward to his response back. His letters were always encouraging.

You may or may not know that we have an abbey in New York dedicated to the Holy Cross. I have made retreats there in the past and they have sent some of their brothers out to parishes to do retreats. I remember fondly having one of the brothers stay with our family when they came to lead a retreat at Christ Church years ago.

There is a glorious, divine irony in this feast: a cruel instrument of suffering and death has been transformed into a grace-filled instrument of healing and resurrection. The Old Testament book of Numbers (21:4-9) recounts how the Israelites had begun complaining and accusing God of abandoning them during their journey toward the Promised Land. Ultimately, all the venom in their words and hearts manifested itself in the form of poisonous serpents that attacked them. Their own sin fell back on them and trapped them in death and destruction. The peoples complaining made their situation worse.

Then when the people begged God to save them, he told them to gaze on an image of a serpent. They had to fix their eyes on a symbol of their own sin and unbelief it they wanted to be set free from the consequences of their sin. Looking at their sin brought them salvation.

In the Gospel of John (3:13-17), Jesus promises Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be "lifted up" so that everyone who believes in him might enter eternal life. He promises salvation to everyone who comes face-to-face with the consequences of their own sin.

When we exalt the cross—when we lift up and gaze on it—we experience God's love and his healing. We see that it was not just our sin that put Jesus there; it was also his love. It wasn't just our selfishness; it was his selflessness. We thought we were casting him out of our lives, when really he was giving himself to us in the fullest way possible.

Jesus could have stopped his death at any point, but he didn't. He let us lift him up in death so that he could raise us up to eternal life. Let us pray the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world."

Deacon Joe



Meals for St. Mary's Shelter

October 1-5



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 1st to Friday, October 5th. 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 Natalie Famous at 610-716-3758 to participate in this outreach of St. Peter's Church.

Dignity Bags Drive for the Homeless

October 1 to 28

Sponsored by the Community of Deacons, Diocese of PA



The drive is Diocesan-wide, and donated items will be brought to the Cathedral and the bags will be filled during convention. The distribution of the bags will be at a designated place at the Cathedral where clergy and lay delegates will be free to take bags back to the persons they serve directly with their ministries. All items should either be sent to the cathedral c/o Deacon Toneh Smyth or contact her for pick up, twilliams@diopa.org

For more information on the drive, please check the web links below:

<https://www.diopa.org/news/your-help-needed-with-blessing-bags/>

or

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/17IJS6O5080DM/ref=cm_sw_em_r_z_g_wb



Blessing of the Animals - October 7th



The spirit of St. Francis will once again be celebrated at St. Peter's on October 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the garden area outside the Lady Chapel. In the interest of safety, we ask that all pets arrive leashed or crated.

Let's celebrate the special animals that enrich our lives with their unconditional love. Please encourage your family and friends to join us for this special celebration with their pets! Outreach at St. Peter's is not limited just to people!



Music @ St. Peter's October 21, 2018 - 4:00pm



Charlie Zahm

Charlie Zahm is one of the most popular soloists at Celtic music festivals, Maritime, and American Traditional music events anywhere east of the Mississippi. With a baritone voice some have described as "coming along once in a generation," Charlie has become one of the most successful performers on the Celtic festival circuit, weaving magical moments of Scottish and Irish history for the listener and viewer, with passion for the performance and a chosen repertoire pleasing to all members of the family. A master of the guitar as well, Charlie brings an authentic love and respect for the music he sings and with dashes of humor and a light in his eyes, he will draw you into the stories of his songs!



Emergency Warming Center



It is hard to believe it, but Fall is here and we are hard at work readying ourselves for the 4th season of the Code Blue Overnight Emergency Warming Center! The Center is open from mid-November to mid-April (depending on the weather for any given year) from 8 PM to 8 AM, seven days a week, with one paid staff member and up to two volunteers per shift each night. You can sign up to serve from 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM or 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM. Please see Gary Russell for further information or email at grussell-21@hotmail.com or 610-420-7224.

You may sign up as a volunteer by completing a Volunteer Form and return to Ann's Heart using the link on the next page:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PZiWyipiE4SXoOI71ynthmaN2kD0LZtgReSK0EhWd6g/edit>

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A Stewardship Moment

Trevor Gordon Hall

I was asked by the stewardship committee to give a brief reflection on stewardship as we enter the fall. I have 1 simple phrase I want to ponder with everyone. Remember. Recalibrate. Repeat.

I love the feeling of the fall. Growing up I had mixed emotions of course because it always meant going back to school. I was never a fan of that moment of walking into the cafeteria at lunch that first day of school nervously scanning the room for who I will sit with for the next whole year without looking too eager. I don't miss that panic feeling of remembering my new locker combination OR looking at my new class schedule and pondering what evil mind planned classes on opposite sides of the building with only a few minutes of passing time to get from room to room.

But now I see there are two feelings I always loved about the fall that have never faded since those days. The sense of a fresh start and the fact that no one is ahead of us. We all stand before the new season and face the many moods it brings together. Yes the leaves change, the weather gets colder, the days get shorter, our schedules pick back up, everything we can possibly think of now comes in a pumpkin flavor and of course its finally legal to reach for the flannels we have been dying to wear again all summer. Fall is a sort of new year's celebration with resolutions and best of intentions. It's the time of year we tend to analyze our commitments and to recalibrate back to our ideals. All of us face our busyness and underneath all of that can often lurk the

subtle or often in my case the not so subtle anxiety that we don't quite measure up to those ideals; that we tend to lose our way.

Bringing up now these grand ideals of good stewardship with time, abilities, finances etc. can feel too overwhelming, and bring feelings of guilt for the moments we feel we have wandered off too far. I want to share a simple change in perspective that has helped me clear away some of the debris around words like ideals, resolutions, shortcomings, maturity, mastery, discipline and yes stewardship.

In my dabbling over the years in Zen meditation I remember reading that freeing the mind of constant thoughts and disruptions is not actually the goal. Those distractions will happen. That much can be guaranteed. Your mind will wander. The focus must be on returning to the intention. A calm centered mind. Notice the distraction, return to the breathing, notice your mind wandering, return to the quiet. The treasure is not in the mastery of every mental state but in the constant returning to the silence or the breath.

Zoning out a little bit, every great spiritual teacher will say that all of us must strive in general to be eternal beginners. We must always circle back around to our starting points dust off our knees and try again with fresh perspective. Maturity is not in escaping this cycle but fully embracing it. Mastery is not total consistency all down the line but constant resiliency. Put another way, maturity is not some point we hope to someday arrive at where we no longer wander from our ideals but it is when we fully embrace our constant need to return to them again and again without beating ourselves up. And it is here we are brushing up against the fundamental principle in life that to be human is to wander but we must learn to wander more wisely. Just like meditation, notice our attention has wandered; accept it and wisely return to the breathing without self-ridicule. Remember our ideals. Recalibrate back to them. Repeat the process constantly.

We know that all of the great ideals in life are put before us with great weight and urgency. Be a kind person. Manage your money well. Be a good listener. Be patient. My point here is we are not mature when we display these characteristics without fail. We are mature when we search to constantly recalibrate back to them. Noticing we are agitated with someone and returning to kindness. Noticing we are distracted when someone is talking to us and returning to being a good listener. Noticing we are spending a bit too much money in a certain area and reigning it in.

As we look at the pledge cards and the areas of the church where we might be able to help, let's remember all of this together right now. Think about how important this church is to all of us and let's all embrace the mood of the fall together. Let's dust off our knees and circle back around. This is a fresh start for us to analyze our schedules, finances, ideals/intentions, and make new commitments to our own values as individual families and as a church family together. Let's not torture ourselves for inevitably wandering from our ideals or intentions and just accept that it happens. Let's strive to be ever more mature beginners, wisely taking notice of wandering and returning yet again. That is what I think being a good steward of our time talents and treasures is all about. Remember. Recalibrate. Repeat.

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October Anniversaries



- 10] Randall and Margaret Hobbs
- 19] Gary and Carol Russell
Brian and Kim Thornton

October Birthdays



- 1] Helen Young
- 2] Curt Quaintance
- 3] Sr. Linda-Susan Beard
- 6] Marjorie Hairsine, Karen Hartman
- 7] Diane Hope
- 9] Sharon Schiele, Marva Young
- 12] Sarah Williams
- 14] Phoebe Foerster, Jenevieve Krummrich
- 15] Elizabeth Fifer
- 17] Henry Young
- 18] Mark Hammaker, William Brennfleck,
Isaac Nagy
- 19] Michael O'Rourke
- 21] Lisa Scott
- 22] Lindsey, Kaitie, Fiona Craig
- 23] Susan Hyatt
- 24] Bruce Alling
- 28] W. Peter Druckenmiller, Kristen Cassidy

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A Prayer For the Harvest

BCP, page 840

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all the other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen.

October Worship Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 7 James Dallas
- 14 Lisa Scott
- 21 Joan Grunwell
- 28 Glenn Murray

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 7 Alexis Wilson
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 14 Lisa Scott
- 21 Ron Gaugler
- 28 Alexis Wilson

Acolytes

- 7 Phoebe Foerster
Isaac Nagy, Trey Foerster
- 14 Michael Logar
Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger
- 21 Katie Parker
Sean Magee, Mali Warren
- 28 Vernet Spence-Brown
Emma Martz, Syndey Alling

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 7 Vernet Spence-Brown, Pat Howse
- 14 Cindy Giancaterino, Lady Rennie
- 21 Judi Hans, Anne Andrews
- 28 Marva Young, Mike Logar

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 7 Family Service
Gary Russell *chalicist*
Richard Greene *chalicist*
- 14 Sarah Ohansian, Lynn Boukalik
Retta Sparano *intercessions*
Carol Russell *chalicist*
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
- 21 David Brennfleck, Vernet Spence-Brown
Amy Atlee *intercessions*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
Richard Greene *chalicist*
- 28 Trevor Hall, Mali Warren
Shelly Brennfleck *intercessions*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*

Ushers – 10:00 am

- 7 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 14 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 21 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 28 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

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A Prayer attributed to St. Francis BCP, page 833

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Financial Update – August 2018

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through August, 2018 is outlined below.

- **Income**
 - Total open plate donations through July were \$9,863 which was off pace of the budget by \$6,137. Pledges were slightly below budget at \$178,117 by \$3,867, or 2% of expected pledges, through August.
 - Total operating income was \$202,365 which is slightly below the expected income of \$204,292 after removal of Clinic rent and a \$5K Diocese grant for the Capital Campaign.
 - Total income, including pass through income of \$29,927, was \$245,853.
- **Expense**
 - Total operating expenses were \$214,084 which were above expected budget of \$205,197, primarily because of higher than expected winter utility bills and repair/maintenance costs expensed in the first quarter of 2018.
 - Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$41,773, were \$255,857.
 - St. Peter's reported a year-to-date operating loss of (\$11,719) through August.
 - St. Peter's reported an overall loss of (\$10,004), including pass-through, one-time and other designated income and expenses, through August, 2018.

Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request.

Account Balances (as of 8/31/18):

- Checking: \$4,069
- Savings: \$4,078
- Certificates of Deposit: \$43,494
- Youth Group: \$1,401
- Pantry/Outreach: \$24,290
- Mission: \$1,356
- Building Maintenance: \$14,855
- Concert Series: \$4,793
- Capital Campaign: \$36,173
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$5,193
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$139,902**

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