

# SAINT PETER'S NET

JESUS SAID TO PETER, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISH FOR PEOPLE."  
MATTHEW 4:19

## From the Rector

This letter from Father Koshy to the parish NET  
was first published in February 2006

Dear Friends,

By the time you will get this edition of the NET in your hands, I will be in your midst installed as the new rector. It has been a long wait for you and me. As I am writing these lines, sitting at my desk a few days before my arrival in Phoenixville, I am filled with varied emotions of sadness and joy, anxiety and anticipation, as well as fear and excitement. Though I am a veteran in moving from place to place, every time it happens, I still feel those inevitable emotions. Leaving the familiar and embracing the new is never easy, and yet that is what we are often called to do. However, as I ponder further, I realize that our apprehensions of the changes we encounter on the way are only temporary in the light of the ministry that you and I are invited to participate in.

In the service booklet we used for the celebration of new ministry, you may have noticed the list of former rectors who served at St. Peter's. While I feel honored to follow these luminaries, we must realize that rectors come and go, but the ministry of St. Peter's is here to stay. Change is only in those who are called to shepherd and support the ongoing ministry of the baptized at St. Peter's. I am called here to support you in your work of building on what has been laid before. In that respect it is not a change in ministry, rather a continuation of the ministry.

I am heartened by the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm that you all put into the work of the church. It is with great joy and admiration I read about the various aspects of your work at St. Peter's and thank God for your love of the church and its mission in the community it is called to serve. Susan and I look forward to being part of this vibrant faith community and finding our new home among you.

In peace,

As we look to the future with anticipation and anxiety as to what God has in mind for us and for our ministry, I am reminded of a quote by Nikos Kazantzakis, "Three kinds of souls, three prayers: I am a bow in your hands, draw me lest I rot. Do not overdraw me, I shall break. Overdraw me and who cares if I break!" As we turn a new page in our church's ministry, let us renew our commitment by opening ourselves to the movement of Spirit and to the endless possibilities God has in mind for us. To do what God wants us to do requires us to risk, to go beyond the limit we set for ourselves, and to step out of our comfort zones. By nature we are reluctant to let go of what's familiar and to embrace something that's unknown and strange. However, the question stares at us, "is it really up to us?" Here, I am reminded of those

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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. Joseph Dietz, Deacon  
Retta Sparano, Liturgical Coordinator  
Derek Maninfiore, 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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## What's Happening At St. Peter's February 2019

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verses in Isaiah, which read, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43: 18-19). As members of a faith community, let us constantly ask ourselves this question, “Are we willing and open to let God begin a new thing with us?”

My prayer is that God would grant us grace and fortitude to go places we would rather not go but God wants us to go, or to do things we would rather not do but God wants us to do. As we are at the threshold of a new beginning, may we be found ready and willing to let go and let God!

Blessings, *Koshy*

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## Deacon’s Roundtable

Have you ever felt like an old wine skin and stuck in your old comfortable ways. I know I have. Even though God has made us flexible new creations in Christ, we are often aware of habits and patterns of behavior that look more like the old crusty ways of being unchristian. For me it is being a curmudgeon in trying to control my ill temper. I want to change, but when I try to stretch, the seams of my old wine skin feel the tension and I fall back into my old ways. I just don’t want to burst.

Take heart, old wine skins can be reconditioned if they are cleaned and soaked in oil. They can even get to the point where they can hold new wine—wine that is rapidly expanding and that calls for the utmost flexibility.

When it comes to our hearts, cleaning involves clearing out whatever debris might be blocking our ability to welcome the Lord. Take for example when we lose our temper. We could focus all our attention on bottling up our reaction or we could look at why we tend to react this way. Is it impatience? Stress? Fear?

Let us get to the bottom of the reaction, and seek God’s cleansing power there at the root. When a situation causes me to be angry, I try to replace that cause with its opposite virtue: patience, trust, or courage.

We all have to do our part to change and stretch, but ultimately it is God who changes us. That is where soaking comes in. I try each day to find time to soak myself in God’s presence in prayer. Throughout the day, ask for God’s grace when we feel tempted to fall back into our old patterns. By asking a good friend or family member to pray for us over time we will become more flexible. Our hearts will expand to welcome more of the Lord in –as well as more of his people. It is true that no one pours new wine into old wine skins. Praise God that he has sent Jesus to us so that he can make all things new. Meditate on Mark 2:18-22 to help you better understand where God wants you to be through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Deacon Joe*

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## DAY by DAY

The February/March/April issue of DAY by DAY [Forward] may be found in the Narthex Tract Rack.

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## February 10 - One Service Only ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Please plan to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 10. There will be one service that day at 10:00 AM. Fr. Koshy will deliver his Rector’s report from the pulpit and other significant reports will be given verbally during the service. The vestry will be available for questions during coffee hour which follows the meeting.

## Candlemas

You may have seen the feast of Candlemas on a calendar and wondered what it was. Although it is not celebrated at Saint Peter's, Candlemas is a Christian holiday celebrated annually on February 2. It celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief: the presentation of the child Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple; and it celebrates the Virgin Mary's purification (mainly in Catholic churches).



The Candlemas Bells, also known as Snowdrops, symbolize hope according to Christian belief.

Many Christians consider Jesus as the "light of the world" so it is fitting that candles are blessed on this day and that a candle-lit procession precedes the mass. It is traditional to eat crepes on Candlemas in some parts of Europe, such as France. Each family member prepares and cooks a crepe while holding a coin in hand. This is believed to assure wealth and happiness until the next Candlemas celebration. Some Christians observe the practice of leaving Christmas decorations up until Candlemas.

Candlemas primarily focuses on Jesus' early life. Many Christians believe that Jesus' mother, Mary, presented him to God at the Temple in Jerusalem after observing the traditional 40-day period of purification (of mothers) following his birth. According to a New Testament gospel, a Jewish man named Simeon held the baby in his arms and said that he would be a light for the Gentiles (Luke 2:32). It is for this reason that this event is called Candlemas.

Candlemas occurs at a period between the December solstice and the March equinox, so many people traditionally marked that time of the year as winter's "halfway point" while waiting for the spring. It is also Groundhog Day in the United States and Canada on February 2.

According to folklore, the badger comes out to test the weather in the United Kingdom.

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## Capital Campaign 2019 Update

We would like to extend our gratitude to all parishioners who joined us at the Kick-off Luncheon for the St. Peter's "Imagine What We Can Do Together" capital campaign. Thank you to Fr. Koshy Mathews, Mark Hammaker, Leo Guen, Judi Hans and Gary Russell for their inspirational words, and to Iris Blanche, Retta Sparano, and Erica Logar for their generous gifts of time and hospitality for making the luncheon such a wonderful experience. Thank you also to Il Granaio Restaurant (184 Bridge Street) for providing the delicious food served at the luncheon.

As a reminder, pledges to the capital campaign are due by Valentine's Day (February 14). Stay tuned for more updates on our exciting campaign to make our beautiful church more welcoming and accommodating for all!

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## Cristosal Mission



The Mission Committee continues to meet monthly to focus mainly on our invaluable connection with Cristosal and keep our support energized.

Of note is a fast approaching opportunity to participate with Cristosal's Global School in El Salvador for a seminar on March 10 to 17th entitled, *Human Rights and Resistance: Organizing for Change*. So far there are 3 from St. Peter's going who will be merging with others in the U S to form a group of at least 10.

This is sure to be a very enriching experience to learn and grow in faith and understanding while connecting with the people in El Salvador and esp. those who are struggling with issues of forced displacement. Yes, this seminar is fast approaching, so if you are interested, please contact Cindy Hammaker or Gary Russell as soon as possible. We'd love to have more join us, so please consider this wonderful opportunity! You can learn more about Cristosal and their Global School at [www.cristosal.org](http://www.cristosal.org)

There will also be the Dollar a Day Campaign during the Lenten season from March 6th to Easter Sunday. This activity will encourage you to consider donating 1 dollar a day as you reflect on those that live on so little every day. Then, your collected donation will go directly toward the great works of Cristosal.

Another date to save is April 27th when St. Peter's will host a community fundraising event at the home of Mike and Erica Logar, with the director of Cristosal, Noah Bullock, as the honorary guest and speaker. This will surely be a fun and impactful event!

Thank you for your continued support of this vital outreach mission of St. Peter's!

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## 2019 Vestry Candidates

**Lynn Boukalik**



I moved to Phoenixville in the summer of 2016 and began to look for a church community that would be inclusive and provide active missions to support others. St. Peter's has welcomed me and I discovered a church home filled with a sense of community and passion for others. My husband, Bill, and I were married for 47 years and lived in the Cleveland area. We raised three sons, who are all prospering and are spread

across the country. I have 7 wonderful (of course) grandchildren. I am now happily involved with the three granddaughters who live here. My decision to move to Phoenixville came after my husband passed away. I had worked for the NASA Glenn Research Center for 30 years and after a fulfilling and creative career, I was ready to retire. I have a Master's Degree in Library Science and used this to support a wide variety of teams by assisting them to create information, organize and share it internally and via the web. At St. Peter's, I have been a volunteer for the food pantry for the last 6 months. I am also a member of the Environmental Ministry, a lector and support Helping Hands. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the dedicated team members at St. Peter's. I am a passionate believer in the missions that support both the internal needs of the church and the service to those in the community. I would like to serve on the Vestry to be a part of the team that will have an active role in supporting the continuation of a very positive future for St. Peter's Church.

**Vernon Feather**



I have been attending St. Peter's Episcopal Church with my wife, Aimee and two daughters Audrey (9) and Ava (7) for a little over two years. I was raised in the Methodist Church and Aimee in the Catholic Church. After moving to Collegeville, we began searching for a church in which we could both be comfortable. We found that on our first visit to St. Peter's. We were struck by the friendliness and open arms of the congregation as well as the number of missions a church of this size has accomplished. Last year we had our two daughters baptized at St. Peter's, I have begun serving on the Capital Campaign and Aimee is serving on the Discernment Committee. We have continued to be impressed with Father Koshy's spiritual guidance and leadership.

Outside the church, I am a managing principal and architect at a firm that specializes in designing senior living communities, primarily for non-profit mission-oriented organizations. Often in this role, I'm assisting communities in reinventing themselves by building on their strengths.

St. Peter's is not a community in need of reinvention, however as we transition to a new rector, the next couple of years will be critical to the future of our community and ministry. My interest in serving on Vestry is to help to continue building on the great community and spiritual foundation that has been established here at St. Peter's.

**Leo Guen**



As a fourth-generation Chinese American son of Boston Chinatown community activists, and the eldest grandson of 1952 Maine and American Mother of the Year Toy Len Goon, I grew up with high expectations of responsibility, leadership and service to others, especially to make life better for immigrants and others lacking a voice at the table.

In 2015, I came to St. Peter's Episcopal Church and immediately knew I had found a spiritual home --- full of openness, diversity, music, compassionate outreach, and opportunities for community service.

I jumped into the choir, lecturing, Stewardship, landscaping, and currently play a leading role in upgrading our website. My wife Sherry and I have performed ballroom and Latin dances for Father Koshy's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the annual Phoenixville Multi-Cultural Festival. We have 3 adult children who attended our wedding at St. Peter's in October 2018.

I have 40 years of experience as a bank and software Business Analyst and management consultant, and currently work at JPMorgan Chase in Jersey City and NYC.

**Mary Jo Wells**



Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and share my St. Peter's story. When my son Tate was born I reached out to Father Hyatt who had been my childhood minister at Trinity Church Gulph Mills. I wanted him to baptize Tate and that was our introduction to St. Peter's. We began attending regularly and have been at the church for about ten years. In that time I have come to appreciate many things about St. Peter's, but the aspects that stand out to me are the welcoming, friendly, diverse and supportive community. I have come to view St. Peters as part of my family. I am a licensed counselor who has worked in the employee assistance field for over twenty years. I help clients locate resources for emotional issues and work/life stressors.

I decided to run for vestry because we are in a time of transition and I think I can provide some perspective as a parent, pantry volunteer, and Godly Play teacher. I also believe in the mission of the church and want to work to expand God's presence in each other's lives and the community. I believe that we accomplish this by our own service and involvement.

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## February Celebrations



[26] Richard and Karen Greene



- [2] Ron Druckenmiller
- [3] Jake Vargo
- [4] Brittany Rennie
- [7] Joni Coleman
- [9] Lisa Brock, Mona Chylack, Harrison Jenkins
- [12] Mariel Weiss
- [14] Caitlin Rothenberger
- [16] David Hyatt, Richard Green
- [17] Bill Sullens
- [18] Jan Wier, Kim Thornton, Scarlett Heist
- [19] Ryan Wier, Michael Paster,  
Benjamin Woolston
- [20] Mike Logar
- [22] Eric Quaintance
- [26] Cindy Paris
- [27] Gabriel Kostelny, Henry Cassidy
- [28] Julia Kiernan

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## Worship Service Participants

### Greeters - 8:00 am

- 3 James Dallas
- 10 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 17 Volunteer
- 24 Glenn Murray

### Lectors - 8:00 am

- 3 Alexis Wilson  
Ron Gaugler *chalicist*
- 10 **ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 17 Alexis Wilson
- 24 Ron Gaugler

### Greeters - 10:00 am

- 3 Pat Howse, Anne Atlee
- 10 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke
- 17 Judi Hans, Danielle/Vincent Jouenne
- 24 Vernet Spence-Brown, Anne Andrews

## Acolytes

- 3 James Hammaker  
Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger
- 10 Michael Logar  
Trey Foerster, Emma Martz
- 17 Frank Rothenberger  
Sean Magee, Jolie Chylack
- 24 Victor Jackson  
Isaac Nagy, Coleman Nagy

### Lectors - 10:00 am

- 3 Lynn Boukalik, Mona Chylack  
Beverly Burkhardt *intercessor*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*  
Gary Russell *chalicist*
- 10 Michael Logar, Chris Goulian  
Asha George-Guiser *intercessor*  
Carol Russell *chalicist*  
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 17 Carol Russell, Mary Ellen Crowley  
Marty Bloem *intercessor*  
Richard Greene *chalicist*  
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
- 24 Mali Warren, Kent Wenger  
Trevor Hall *intercessor*  
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*  
Carol Russell *chalicist*

## Ushers

- 3 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 10 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 17 Curt, Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 24 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

## Financial Update ~ December 2018

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- **Income**

- Total open plate donations through December were \$14,533 which ended up less than expected in 2018. Pledges were slightly lower than expected at \$271,443 through year-end.
- Total operating income was \$332,670 through December which was slightly higher than expected primarily because of additional grant/designated income as well as strong Christmas offerings totaling \$7,330.
- Total income, including pass through/designated income of \$107,858, was \$440,529. Designated income included \$42,700 in Capital Campaign funds.

- **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$323,253 which is higher than expected, primarily because of higher than expected winter utility bills and capital repair/maintenance costs expensed in 2018.
- Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$86,405, were \$409,658.  
St. Peter's reported a year-end operating surplus of \$9,417 and overall surplus of \$30,871.

Additional detail on income and expense is available upon request and will be reported on at the annual meeting.

Account Balances (as of 12/31/18):

- Checking: \$14,043
- Savings: \$4,081
- Certificates of Deposit: \$43,494
- Youth Group: \$1,402
- Pantry/Outreach: \$31,058
- Mission: \$1,357
- Building Maintenance: \$12,274
- Concert Series: \$5,047
- Capital Campaign: \$57,736
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$7,615
- Columbarium Project: \$2,513
- Petty Cash: \$200
- **Total Cash: \$180,820**

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