

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,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Social Concerns Committee of Phoenixville. To mark this special occasion, we, the members of the committee, challenged ourselves to come up with five acts of social justice that we would do as individuals in Phoenixville. Our suggestions would then be compiled to make a "top 25" list and promote it on Saturday, April 6 at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Prayer Breakfast to be held at Phoenixville Area Middle School. Working on the list of my own suggestions reminds me of the resolutions we make in Lent to help us grow spiritually.

As a faith community we are about to enter Lent, the most somber season of the church year. Lent serves as a reminder to renew our commitment to live daily a life of Resurrection in a Good Friday world characterized by its brokenness and deadness. It is a period set apart to hone our souls by purging what is extraneous and superfluous in our lives, and taking on such disciplines that would be meaningful and purposeful. Intentionality is key to observing Lent. It is braving wilderness like John the Baptist and Jesus. It is like putting ourselves in a vulnerable place and not relying on anything except our faith in God.

To help us in our Lenten journey this year, I have put together a list of opportunities. It will be given out as an insert to the bulletins on February 24 and March 3. It is also printed in this issue of the Net. People find it useful in the past, hope it will do so again.

The fact that secular organizations such as Social Concerns Committee call for Social Justice Actions makes me think how we, church, differ from them in our call for the same. So many NGOs do such good works in the world as does the church. How are their good works different from our good works? Is there a difference? I believe the difference has to do with the source of our authority. What prompts us to do good things in the world? The verse from Malachi comes to mind, "*He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*" Doing justice work is not an option for us. We are doing it out of love for God and love for fellow human beings. It is not something we should take pride in rather be humble about. It doesn't mean all the good things Social Service Agencies and NGOs do are not valued. It just doesn't have that spiritual element. One may ask why the spiritual element is important. My answer is the Cross. It is made of two planks, the vertical and the horizontal. The vertical plank represents our relationship to God and the horizontal our relationship to fellow human beings. You can't make a cross with one plank alone.

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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 Maninfor, *Music Director*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*

Vestry

2020 Judi Hans
Vincent Giancaterino
Leo Guen
2021 Shelly Brennfleck
Frank Rothenberger
Jan Wier
2022 Lynn Boukalik
Vernon Feather
MaryJo Wells

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What's Happening At St. Peter's March 2018

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I pray that this Lent will be for us a time of grace helping us meditate seriously about our relationship to God, as incarnated in Jesus, and in creation and our fellow human beings. May we be intentional about renewing our faith inside out!

Have a blessed Lent!

In Christ, *Koshy*

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Deacon's Roundtable

As I ruminated about writing this issue of the Deacon's Roundtable I opened the daily devotional I use each day. It is entitled *The Word Among Us* and I have found it to be very helpful in my morning devotions. I want to share a portion of an article from the Lenten issue for this year.

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart." (Joel 2:12) We hear this passage at every Mass on Ash Wednesday, just as we begin our forty-day journey of Lent. Joel's words urge us to turn to God with our whole hearts so that he can save us each individually—not from an external disaster, but from the sin that clouds our relationship with God. Joel's words call us to examine our lives and find the ways we have wandered from the Lord or have hurt one another. They also ask us to open our eyes to the ways that God wants to bless us and draw us closer to him during this season.

Too often we focus on what we have to *give up* instead of what God wants to *give us*. Or we might think about our sins more than God's mercy or fret over our need to change rather than rejoicing in his overflowing grace. We have been made in God's image. He created us as unique individuals. We have gifts and abilities that no other creature has. Using these gifts we can open our hearts to hear God's word for us. God has given us many good things and he only asks us to give some of them up so that

we can receive something which is much better—Jesus.

We get discouraged by the sin we see around us and even the sins that in our own hearts, but evil does not have to have the last word. Especially during Lent, as we turn to the Lord, we can experience Jesus' victory over sin as our own victory. We can find the extra grace to say no to a particular fault or to finally forgive someone who has hurt us.

May the grace of this Lent bring us even closer to God and help us display God's goodness in our lives.

Deacon Joe

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March 6 – Ash Wednesday



- 7:00 a.m. Imposition of Ashes – Lady Chapel
- 12 Noon Imposition of Ashes – Lady Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Imposition of Ashes, Eucharist

March 8 – April 2

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross



Designed for devotional purposes, the Stations depict incidents in the last journey of Christ from Pilate's house to His entombment. They are commonly arranged around the walls of a church and, during Lent and Passiontide, we visit the Stations to recite prayers and meditate

on each. As the early pilgrims in Jerusalem followed the traditional route from Pilate's house to Calvary, stations were reproduced for similar devotion at home. The 14 Stations are:

1. Christ is condemned to death
2. Christ receives the cross
3. He falls for the first time
4. He meets His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross
6. Christ's faced is wiped by a woman
7. His second fall
8. He meets women of Jerusalem
9. His third fall
10. He is stripped of His garments
11. He is nailed to the cross
12. Christ dies on the cross
13. His body is taken down from the cross
14. His body is laid in the tomb

(The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

At St. Peter's we observe the Stations every Friday during Lent at 7PM and on Good Friday at 1:30 PM. The observance of Stations can serve as a point of encounter with God. The danger is that it can be dulled by repetition. However, one of the ways we can revitalize liturgy is through anticipation and expectancy that we are about to have an encounter with God. I hope more of us will make use of the observance of the Stations during this Lent as a discipline to strengthen our relationship to God.

Fr. Koshy

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Community Lenten Worship

Wednesday's - 7:30 pm



GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE

March 13: Dietrich Bonhoeffer
St. John's United Church of Christ
 315 Gay Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Rev. Cynthia Krommes
 St. John's Lutheran Church

March 20: Dorothy Day
Bethel Baptist Church
 412 Fairview Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews
 St. Peter's Episcopal Church

March 27: Bishop Oscar Romero
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 121 Church Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Bishop Daniel G. P. Gutierrez

April 3: John Knox
Grace Crossing Community Church
 248 Church Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Rev. Douglas Hagler
 First Presbyterian Church

April 10: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
First Methodist Church
 145 Main Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Rev. Dan McDowell
 Grace Crossing Community Church

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A Dollar A Day During Lent



Our Southern border has been front and center in the national news focusing on immigration and security. As many of us ponder the implications of our actions as a nation, my thoughts turn to how we can get beyond the politics of what is happening and what we as Christians are called to do. That question too has many potential answers. I would ask you to consider one opinion.

We can support the work of Cristosal working to improve conditions in El Salvador, holding the government responsible for the protection of their own citizens, accompanying families internally displaced by violence and threat, conducting research and education. Improving conditions and reducing the need to flee will have positive effects for all countries.

We have two ways to support Cristosal. The *Dollar A Day* campaign during Lent will commence on March 6 and continue through Easter. Envelopes will be in the pews for you to use to deposit a dollar a day for the Lenten period. On the evening of April 27 all parishioners are invited to a fundraiser at the home of Mike and Erica Logar. Watch the Sunday bulletins and announcements for further details.

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Vestry Member Of The Week



In an effort to keep everyone up to date on issues and concerns at Saint Peter's, we are launching the "Vestry Member of the Week" initiative. You will find a vestry member wearing a Vestry nametag on Sunday, so please speak to that person if you have questions or concerns that vestry should know about. Also, please feel free to attend vestry meetings. The meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month, unless there is a scheduling conflict. Meeting dates and times are posted on the monthly calendar and also in the weekly email blast. Please come!

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Coffee Hour Makeover



Last week I had the challenge of finding a last minute volunteer for coffee hour. No one wanted to take on the entire responsibility, but many were happy to assist by providing a food item or two. We ended up with more than enough food for our enjoyment and no one was stressed either for time or money.

With that discovery, I have decided to try a new approach to covering coffee hour. No longer will the entire responsibility of providing food be left to one or two, but six or more. I will be looking for six or more volunteers for each Sunday to provide a food item or juice. The new volunteer sign-up sheet will have 6 spaces for names under each date with a place to write what you will be bringing. This will ensure that we have a nice variety each Sunday and not mistakenly end up with 6 juices and no food!

As usual, I will be here on Sundays to set up and clean up, but I am always looking for more help with clean up. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Hope you will consider signing up.

Joni Coleman, jonicoleman10@gmail.com

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Introduction to the Myers-Briggs® and Psychological Type Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

We all know that people are different; we see it every day – in our family relationships, our work places and in our community. We accept many of these differences and learn how to intuitively navigate the people we know, but it's human nature to continually question *why* people can't be more like us. Come to learn about the Myers-Briggs Type, one answer to the mystery behind human behavior. During this session, you will be guided through exercises by Cindy Paris, that will enable you to self-select your MBTI Type and develop an understanding of why and how people approach the world differently.

About Cindy Paris



Cindy is the Founder of The People Skills Group (www.thepeopleskillsgroup.com) and nationally recognized as a Master Facilitator and thought leader in the world of the Myers-Briggs and Psychological Type. Cindy and her family met Koshy when her father was in hospice at Paoli Hospital this past summer. Fran, her mom, had been following Koshy's sermons on the internet and loved what he was saying. As a long time Episcopalian, Fran asked the hospital Chaplain to contact Koshy to come to the hospital and give her father his last communion. The family held the memorial service at St. Peter's with Koshy presiding, and Cindy and Fran have been members since then.

Please register at cindystengelparis@gmail.com by March 10, 2019.



- [2] Dave Meadows
- [3] Nancy Giampietro
- [11] Seamus Sutter
- [15] Carrie Wanish
- [16] Sydney Alling
- [17] Rachel Schaefer, Malina Weiss
- [20] Frank Rothenberger
- [21] Benjamin Barker
- [23] Lauren Nagy
- [24] Michael Dean
- [27] Brian Prato
- [28] Anne Andrews
- [29] Jack Andrews
- [30] Wendy Vargo, Stephanie Sutter
- [31] Rosemarie O'Rourke

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Music @ St. Peter's Presents



Chester County Choral Society
March 31, 2019- 4:00 p.m.

Chester County Choral Society is an 80-voice auditioned chorus in its 46th year of bringing excellent choral music to our region. Its **Chamber Ensemble** is a select 20-voice group focusing on advanced, mostly *a cappella* repertoire. Their 2018-19 concert cycle features diverse music from the 20th and 21st centuries.

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March Celebrations



- [24] Andrew and Kristen Craig
- [26] James and Candace Sim

March Worship Service Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 3 James Dallas
- 10 Lisa Scott
- 17 Volunteer
- 24 Glenn Murray
- 31 James Dallas

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 3 Lisa Scott
Lisa Scott *chalicist*
- 10 Ron Gaugler
- 17 Alexis Wilson
- 24 Lisa Scott
- 31 Ron Gaugler

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 3 Mike Logar, Marva Young
- 6 7:30 Anne Atlee, Lady Rennie
- 10 Kim Thornton, Pat Howse
- 17 Judi Hans, Carmita Magee
- 24 Judi Hans
- 31 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 3** Susan Thomas, Retta Sparano
Mona Chylack *intercessor*
Gary Russell, Richard Greene *chalicists* § § § § §
- 6 7:30** Asha George-Guiser, Beverly Burkhardt
Jan Wier *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicist*
- 10** Sr. Linda-Susan Bead, Amy Atlee
Kent Wenger *intercessor*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 17** Marty Bloem, Jolie Chylack
Chris Goulian *intercessor*
Carol Russell, Richard Greene *chalicists*
- 24** Trevor Hall, David Brennfleck
Jolie Chylack *intercessor*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
Gary Russell *chalicist*
- 31** Georgette Druckenmiller, Shelly Brennfleck
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicist*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicist*

Acolytes

- 3** James Hammeker
Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger
- 6 7:30** Vernet Spence-Brown
- 10** Vernet Spence-Brown
Trey Foerster, Emma Martz
- 17** Frank Rothenberger
Isaac Nagy, Coleman Nagy
- 29** Frank Rothenberger
Katie Parker, Colin Parker
- 24** Victor Jackson
Sean Magee, Jolie Chylack
- 31** Vernet Spence-Brown
Emma Martz, Trey Foerster

Ushers

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

Financial Update ~ January 2019
from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through January, 2019 is outlined below.

• **Income**

- Total open plate donations were \$1,592 and pledges were \$31,542 in the first month of 2019 which are both higher than expected.
- Total operating income was \$35,800 which included \$1,591 in rent from the Clinic.
- Total income, including pass through/designated income of \$20,245, was \$56,055. Designated income included \$8,450 in Capital Campaign funds.

• **Expense**

- Total operating expenses were \$22,842 resulting in an operating surplus of \$12,958.
- Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$11,763, were \$34,605. This included \$10,043 in Capital Campaign expenses.
- St. Peter's reported an overall surplus of \$21,449 in January, 2019.

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

Account Balances (as of 1/31/19):

- Checking: \$29,217
- Savings: \$4,081
- Certificates of Deposit: \$43,494
- Youth Group: \$1,402
- Pantry/Outreach: \$39,349
- Mission: \$1,377
- Building Maintenance: \$13,869
- Concert Series: \$5,472
- Capital Campaign: \$56,162
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$7,182
- Columbarium Project: \$2,513
- Petty Cash: \$200
- **Total Cash: \$204,318**

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