

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 Friends and Members of St. Peter's,

Nowadays, it's hard for me not to think about anything church related without a tinge of sadness. Anything I do in church lately is preceded by the word 'last'. When I visited one of our homebound members the other day she asked me, "Will you come back to see me again?" It was hard for me to say 'no', and I said, 'surely'. I hope I will be able to. At the recent Vestry meeting, when we talked about intentional relationships, it dawned on me how I, as a priest and as a believer, am profoundly connected to the relationships I have with each of you. I am defined and shaped by our relationships and our connections. This is what I am going to miss the most when I leave St. Peter's in a few weeks.

This past Sunday's lesson was about doubting Thomas' encounter with the Risen Christ. We don't know why Thomas was not with his fellow disciples on Easter Day when Jesus first appeared to them. Perhaps, he was dealing alone with his pain away from everyone. However, once he was back in relationship with his brothers and they shared with him their experience of the Risen Christ, he doubted and demanded to have his own experience to believe their account. This led to the most intimate scene of his encounter with the Risen Lord. It was so close an encounter that Thomas could see and touch all the unhealed wounds of Jesus. It was so powerful and profound that instantly made Thomas to make the greatest confession, "My Lord and my God." Thomas's re-connection and relationship with his brothers and with the risen Lord, transformed him, defined him and shaped him, and eventually made him to be the great apostle of Jesus Christ to India.

In these waning days of our time here at St. Peter's, I look back and thank God for all these past few years of our life together. I believe it was the work of the Holy Spirit that brought me, an outlier in many respects, to you, as your priest. What a privilege it has been to be invited into your lives, to hear your stories and struggles, and to journey with you a little while. As we have ministered together in our church and in the community, we also have ministered to each other through our relationships and connections with each other. We have witnessed, touched, and healed the wounds of the Risen Lord in each other. We have been wounded healers to one another. In doing so, we confessed the Risen Lord like Thomas, "My Lord and my God".

Our relationship with each of you is about to undergo a change, a change that will test the verity of the notion whether distance makes our hearts grow fonder. Our relationship will experience a transformation and how it will be post retirement is something we have yet to figure out. As you know June 9, Pentecost, will be our last Sunday at St. Peter's. On this day, the Rev. Shawn Wamsley, Canon to the Ordinary, will come to the church and preside over the Liturgy of The Ending of A Pastoral Relationship. June 9 is an appropriate day for this liturgy as it is both Pentecost as well as the anniversary of my Ordination to Priesthood. Our Easter faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit of Pentecost will beckon us to places where the Risen Lord has already gone ahead of us.

It is my hope and prayer that I will be able to see each of you in the next few Sundays.

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

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

How to contact St. Peter's

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What's Happening At St. Peter's May 2019

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Deacon's Roundtable

The month of May has been dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the church since the fourteenth century. This month of devotion to Mary culminates with the celebration of the Feast of the Visitation. The other great Marian Feast is the Feast of the Annunciation. These two Marian Feasts set the stage for the main prayer of the Rosary, the Hail Mary.

At the Annunciation the Angel Gabriel greeted the Mother of our Lord with the words, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" When Mary greets her cousin at the Visitation, Elizabeth exclaims, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" Mary's response to the angel is one of humble acceptance. She exclaims, "Behold, I am the hand maid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Mary's response to Elizabeth upon her greeting is the great song of Praise--The Magnificat--which is found in St. Luke's Gospel 1:48-55.

Mary accepted God's call to be the mother of the Savior of the World. Each of us is called to belong to this same Jesus. We accomplish this when we accept the Holy Spirit's call to total surrender to God, without reflection and without counting the cost--as Mary has shown us. We can learn a valuable lesson from this woman. We would do well to emulate her humility. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote in his first homily in praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary: "Had Mary not been humble, then, the Holy Spirit would not have rested upon her. Had he not rested upon her, she would not have become pregnant. ...even if it was because of her virginity that she found favor, she conceived nevertheless on account of her humility. Thus there is no doubt that her virginity was found pleasing because her humility made it so."

When Mary knew the Lord was calling, she said "Yes" and she never withdrew that Yes. It was a blind continued Yes in her life. It should be the same for us. The whole of our lives must come to that word Yes.

Because God loves the world, he sent his Son. Now he sends us to be his word. That word has to take flesh in the hearts of people. We take Our Lady as an Holy Example. The Word of God came to her, became flesh in her, then she gave it to others. It is the same for us. The Word of God has come to us and has become flesh in us through the Eucharist. We must be willing to share that love with others.

Deacon Joe

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DAY by DAY



The May/June/July issue of *DAY by DAY* [Forward] is now available in the Narthex Tract Rack.

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Rescheduled Myers-Briggs® and Psychological Type Workshop

Wednesday, May 8, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Come to learn about the Myers-Briggs Type, one answer to the mystery behind human behavior. 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. 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. Please register at cindystengelparis@gmail.com by May 5, 2019.

Celebrate our New Members



On Sunday, May 19 at the 10:00 service, the New Member /Growth Ministry Committee will be hosting a celebration to recognize our newest members. We will have a special coffee hour and our newcomers will receive a blessing. If you have joined Saint Peter's within the past year and would like to be recognized, please contact Judi Hans at 610-327-4653 or JudithHans@comcast.net We hope that we can include all people who consider themselves to be new members of Saint Peter's.

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Music at St. Peter's Presents

Trevor Gordon Hall - May 19, 2018 4:00 pm



Rated one of the top 30 guitarists in the world under 30 years of age by Acoustic Guitar magazine, Trevor Gordon Hall is an instrumentalist from Philadelphia whose compositions range in style from edgy, driving rhythms to soft melodic phrases. Trevor sets himself apart by leaving no physical aspect of the guitar untouched and weaving together different textures into grand yet intimate and lyrical compositions. Trevor continues to tour playing his custom designed "Kalimbar" for audiences all over North America, UK, Europe, Asia and South America, including a recent debut at the iconic Carnegie Hall in NYC. With high praise from industry greats including Steve Hackett, Graham Nash, Pat Martino, Tommy Emmanuel and more, Trevor continues to develop his blend of sounds that focus on utilizing the instrument's fullest creative and compositional potential, guiding listeners

through an igniting experience of music that isn't just heard but felt."

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Thank You!



The pantry had a wonderful Easter thanks to the parishioners of St. Peter's! The generosity of this Parish never ceases to amaze us, we can't thank you enough!

The pantry continues to serve about 90-100 families with the help of wonderful, dedicated volunteers but could use a couple more especially every other Thursday morning. If you would be interested in lending a helping hand, contact penczer@comcast.net

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Who Is Who?



Susan Thomas & Matej Marolt
Alia Emma Thomas

Susan and Matej met while living abroad in Abu Dhabi. Susan was there for 8 years working in a UAE government sponsored educational reform at Aisha Bint Abi Bakre Girls Secondary School. She worked there with students from all over the Arab region-from Sudan, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, and elsewhere. She was there teaching

English and creative thinking skills. Eventually, she took over the English Department and led a multi-national team of educators in a major change management project.

Matej is a goldsmith by trade. His family is from Slovenia and works on historic restoration projects in wood, plaster and metal for the Catholic Church in Slovenia and beyond. They also make and sell handcrafted jewelry. Matej left Slovenia where he was the head of the business to pursue a career in physical fitness, taking a position with the Abu Dhabi Country Club where he taught Les Mills RPM, Body Pump and Grit classes. This is where their paths crossed when Matej was coaching classes that Susan took. They met and got married after that. Subsequently, they moved to America to be closer to Susan's family in Valley Forge where Matej has changed careers from Physical Fitness to HVAC. They live on Ferry Lane in Phoenixville. Susan is currently Marketing Coordinator for ELAP Services: a Cost Containment solution for self-funded health plans. Matej is an HCAV Technician for Quality Degree.

They came to St. Peter's because they want to raise Alia in the Episcopal tradition. Susan is a lifelong Episcopalian, and it was only natural that Alia should have the same experiences. They enjoy the traditional structure of the service as well as the more spiritual aspects of the worship at St. Peters including the burning of worries and the washing of feet. They enjoy the warm congregation and leadership at the Church and have always felt like they were warmly welcomed and made to feel part of the family. "We love the people, the beauty of the space and the Godly Play teachers for Alia!" Welcome, Susan, Matej, and Alia!

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We Are Getting Close To Our Capital Campaign Goal!



Our current total of \$446,690 (combined pledges and grants) reached 89% of our goal. We hope to meet or exceed our goal of \$500,000 in the next month. Please return your pledge card if you have not already done so. You can also make additional pledges in memory of a loved one or in honor of Mother's Day or Father's Day. Every pledge counts towards reaching the top.

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May Birthdays



- [1] Lenora Thornton, Sean Magee, Clara Boone
- [2] Matej Marlot
- [7] Jared Adams
- [9] Emily Bindschusz
- [10] Pat Howse, Carol Russell
- [13] Grace Druckenmiller, Annette Kiernan
- [16] Amy Brodar
- [19] Clem Young, Eric Phillips
- [23] Tara Young
- [24] Jacob Schaefer
- [25] Glenda Pongras
- [28] Susan Mathews
- [29] Vernet Spence-Brown
- [30] Thomas Hammaker, Matthew Hope, Trevor Gordon Hall, Lily Rothenberger

May Anniversaries



- [1] Thomas and Mariel Weiss
- [5] Kim Guiser and Asha George-Guiser
- [7] Henry Young and Andrea Archer
- [11] Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke
- [13] Michael and Erica Logar
- [22] Bill and Cathy Sullens
- [28] Christopher and Diane Hope
Koshy and Susan Mathews
- [29] Vivek and Minita Hivale

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May Worship Service Participants

Greeters ~ 8:00 am

- 5 James Dallas
- 12 Lisa Scott
- 19 Volunteer Needed
- 26 Glenn Murray

Lectors ~ 8:00 am

- 5 Lisa Scott *lector & chalicer*
- 12 Alexis Wilson
- 19 Ron Gaugler
- 26 Lisa Scott

Acolytes

- 5 James Hammaker
Emma Martz, Trey Foerster
- 12 Victor Jackson
Sean Magee, MJ Kiernan
- 19 Vernet Spence-Brown
Leo Wenger, Christian Wenger
- 26 Frank Rothenberger
Isaac Nagy, Coleman Nagy

Greeters ~ 10:00 am

- 5 Pat Howse, Anne Atlee
- 12 Vernet Spence Brown,
Danielle and Vincent Jouenne
- 19 Judi Hans, Anne Andrews
- 26 Michael and Rosemarie O'Rourke

Lectors ~ 10:00 am

- 5 Family Service
Richard Greene *chalicer*
Gary Russell *chalicer*
- 12 Chris Goulian, Susan Mathews
Lynn Boukalik *intercessor*
Peter Druckenmiller *chalicer*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicer*
- 19 Georgette Druckenmiller, Marty Bloem
Karen Martz *intercessor*
Beverly Burkhardt *chalicer*
Vincent Giancaterino *chalicer*
- 26 Jolie Chylack, Shelly Brennfleck
John Magee *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicer*
Richard Greene *chalicer*

Ushers

- 5 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 12 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 19 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 26 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett

Financial Update – March 2019

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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

- Income
 - Total open plate donations were \$3,524 which is close to budget expectations and pledges were \$69,987 which is higher than expected through March, 2019 by about \$3.5K.
 - Total operating income was \$80,502 which included \$4,774 in rent from the Clinic.
 - Total income, including pass through/designated income of \$77,777, was \$158,280. Designated income included \$59,114 in Capital Campaign funds.
- Expense
 - Total operating expenses were \$82,940 resulting in an operating deficit of \$2,438. Some larger expenses in the first quarter included a boiler invoice to repair a steam trap at \$2,349 and discernment expenses of \$2,544. Utility expenses were also slightly higher than expected.
 - The operating deficit was sufficiently covered by cash on hand.
 - Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$26,132, were \$109,072. This included \$13,910 in Capital Campaign expenses.
St. Peter's reported an overall surplus of \$49,208 through March, 2019.

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

Account Balances (as of 3/31/19):

- Checking: \$11,500
- Savings: \$4,083
- Certificates of Deposit: \$43,494
- Youth Group: \$1,402
- Pantry/Outreach: \$36,495
- Mission: \$2,802
- Building Maintenance: \$17,021
- Concert Series: \$4,572
- Capital Campaign: \$103,013
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$5,308
- Columbarium Project: \$2,514
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$232,404**

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