

SAINT PETER'S NET

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

From the Rector

February has been a wonderful and busy month here at St. Peters. My family and I have continued to enjoy the warm welcome we are receiving and the Patience and Love expressed to us as we continue to learn about St. Peters and her people has been tremendous.

On Feb 26th we began a holy Season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes. Every year this 40-day season, (not counting Sundays) begins on Ash Wednesday and finishes on Easter. Ash Wednesday is a different date every year because Easter is a different Sunday every year. It would be so much easier to plan and prepare if Easter had a consistent celebration Sunday — but it does not.

*"Tradition gives us a place to stand, it doesn't anchor us to it.
Tradition serves as a starting point.*

*Tradition is constantly evolving as the generations following it add their
flavor & understanding to it."*

Unknown

At the beginning of Lent, we often ask ourselves what we should do so that it may be a time of grace and conversion. We make some good resolutions, but unfortunately, they often run out of steam. However, the most important thing is not what we do but what God wants to do for us. As long as we keep our hearts open to God and to his love, then there is already a good chance that Lent will bear fruit in our lives.

How do we as God's people approach Lent, define Lent, practice Lent, and live Lent? How do we as a people take these ashes and wear these sackcloths and make them part of our story right now? Our story..., this is how God's people approach the season of Lent, we tell our story. So, let's begin in the beginning... "Once upon a time," God created a people— and God loved the people, but over time the people forgot God who created them and loved them. The people turned away from God and consumed power and earthly treasures. The people forgot from where they had come. God's love was so powerful, that God created a way for the people to return to God. His name is Jesus. God's own Son who came to be with God's people. And come Jesus did, into the world, and into our hearts. To walk and talk with the people — to teach and show the way to live. Jesus gave his life for God's people, so all might be saved and receive eternity. This is not "The End" of our story! Each Lent is an opportunity for a new beginning in our life.

You are invited to all the amazing and mysterious traditions and experiences that Lent 2020 has to offer. You are invited to turn back to God — who created you, who loves you beyond your imagination. You are invited to proclaim that Jesus is the way to life and to give your heart to him.

Fr. Sam

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. Fr. Samuel Ndungu, *Rector*
Rev. Joseph Dietz, *Deacon*
Retta Sparano, *Liturgical Coordinator*
Derek Maninfor, *Music Director*
Judith M. Dougherty, *Parish Secretary*

Vestry Officers

Diane Hope, *Senior Warden*
Mary Jo Well, *Junior Warden*
Frank Rothenberger, *Accounting Warden*

Vestry

2021 Shelly Brennfleck
Frank Rothenberger
Victor Jackson
2022 Lynn Boukalik
Vernon Feather
MaryJo Wells
2023 Leo Guen
Diane Hope
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What's Happening At St. Peter's March 2020

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Deacon's Roundtable

The six weeks of Lent cause us to reflect on our shortcomings, i.e. sine, more than any other time of the church year. Both the Old and New Testaments use a variety of words and concepts that have been translated into the English word “sin”.

Scripture scholars point out that there is no single word in the Old Testament that is equivalent to our word sin. The Hebrew *hatta* or *het* was a common one though. *Hatta* was not seen as an error in judgment, but falling short, failing to attain a goal. It was the breaking of a deal. How often have we read how the ancient Hebrews failed to keep their part of the covenant with Yahweh?

God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants. It wasn't just the chosen people who were expected to keep their part of the deal it was each member, individually. Committing the sin of falling short didn't necessarily mean doing something. It could be not doing something.

The Hebrews had another word for sin, *awon*. This is often translated as “iniquity”, which means wickedness. It drove home the point that sin creates wickedness. At times our acts create wickedness which brings us to a reality of guilt which is a burden we must bear for committing sin.

Jesus tells us the parable of the one hundred sheep which describes another definition of *awon*, i.e. going astray. Sin damages the sinner. The one who sins leaves the path that leads to where the person should be going—that is, to God. *Awon* stresses that the sinner becomes lost, life seems to have no purpose, and the sinner will die.

“Sin” in the Old Testament is also rebellion, against civil authority or one's parents, or against Yahweh. It's a personal offense that leads to the sinner hating the Lord. It is disorder, evil, and ugliness. It is an “abomination”.

Another description in the Old Testament is “foolishness”. “Fool” does not mean clown, but someone who creates trouble, is a harmful influence, and makes problems for themselves and their neighbors.

Why do we sin, because God, through God's love, has given us “free will” to choose God or not. Adam and Eve are prime examples of practicing free will—they committed the original sin which had consequences for all of us. Thus we see that sin does not affect just the one who commits it.

Jesus conquered sin for all of us. To sin is to choose darkness and falsehood rather than Light and Truth. Jesus told us how to live the Truth. It is summed up in the Beatitudes. Those who live that way will be “blessed”. We are happiest when we live as God intended for us.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem taught, “sin is a fearful evil, but not incurable; fearful for the one who clings to it, but easy of cure for one who by repentance drives it away.”

Lent is a time of reflection and traditionally has been a period of seeking reconciliation for missing the mark. I urge you to review the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent as found beginning on page 447 in the Book of Common Prayer. The clergy will be happy to help you better understand how reconciliation and forgiveness can change our lives. My prayer is that each and every one will have a Holy and Blessed Lent.

Deacon Joe

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March 3 – April 7

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 face 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 Tuesday during Lent at 7 p.m. 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.

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Community Lenten Worship
Wednesday's - 7:30 pm



Bridges

March 4

St. Ann Roman Catholic Church
 604 Main Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Pastor Nathan Coleman
 Bethel Baptist Church

March 11

St. John's United Church of Christ
 412 Fairview Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Pastor Eric Woodworth
 Charlestown United Methodist Church

March 18

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 121 Church Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Pastor Dan McDowell
 Grace Crossng Church

March 25

Grimes AME Church
 248 Church Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Pastor Doug Hagler
 First Presbyterian Church

April 1

First Prebysterian Church
 145 Main Street, Phoenixville
 Preacher: Pastor Cynthia Krommes
 St. John's Lutheran 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 commenced on February 26 and continues through Easter. On the evening of **April ??** 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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New Monthly Column in the *NET* “LIFE EVENTS”



While many of us get to know each other at coffee hour or while participating in various ministries, it would be great to hear about what is happening in the lives of all the people of Saint Peter’s. Is there a wedding or special anniversary coming up? Has there been a recent job change or promotion at work? Have your children received a special recognition at school or on their sports team? Graduations, acceptances to college, retirements, on and on....what is new with you or your families?

We all were taught not to call attention to ourselves, but at times a special recognition is due. Please keep us informed by sending an email to the church office under the heading “Life Events – NET” so we can highlight and recognize achievements and milestones of all parishioners to celebrate together.

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The Youth Group would like to thank all of the parishioners who supported the Mardi Gras themed pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, February 23rd. During the event, the youth

served pancakes (plain and chocolate chip), sausage, fruit cup, juice, and coffee to attendees of both services. Many parishioners attended the event and had a wonderful morning of food and fellowship. It truly was a joyful and festive day.



Left to right: Emma Martz, Will Brennfleck, Hannah Druckenmiller, Grace Druckenmiller, Rebecca Martz, Alex Kiernan, Ella Brennfleck, Jake Cammarota, Ethan Smith

The youth look forward to future events with the congregation. We would also like to thank our youth for doing a wonderful job serving our guests and their parents for helping with everything else, from cooking to clean up.

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Music @ St. Peter's Presents



March 22, 2020 4:00pm
Dan Pell

Dan Pell is a guitarist, vocalist and percussionist based in Chester County, PA. His music embraces folk traditions; country-blues, jazz, chants/hymns/spirituals, and incorporates

unique expansive rhythmic devices. From meditative sunrise sounds to percussive stormy seas, informed by the Great American Songbook, jazz drumming, Sacred Harp singing & Eastern drones...a personal fav of non-idiomatic guitar music.

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March Celebrations

Happy Anniversary

- [24] Andrew and Kristen Craig
- [26] James and Candace Sim
- [28] Ian and Glenda Pongras

Happy Birthday

- [2] Dave Meadows
- [3] Nancy Giampietro
- [11] Seamus Sutter
- [15] Carrie Wanish
- [16] Sydney Alling
- [17] Rachel Schaefer, Malina Weiss
- [20] Frank Rothenberger
- [23] Lauren Nagy, Joseph Webster
- [24] Michael Dean, Laura Winslow
- [28] Anne Andrews
- [29] Jack Andrews
- [30] Wendy Vargo, Stephanie Sutter
- [31] Rosemarie O'Rourke, Madeline Wicks

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March Worship Service Participants

Greeters - 8:00 am

- 1 James Dallas
- 8 Lisa Scott
- 15 Sue Patrick
- 22 Glenn Murray
- 29 James Dallas

Lectors - 8:00 am

- 1 Lisa Scott
Lisa Scott *chalicist*
- 8 Ron Gaugler
- 15 Lisa Scott
- 22 Ron Gaugler
- 29 Sue Patrick

Greeters – 10:00 am

- 1 Marva Young, Carmita Magee
- 8 Cindy Giancaterino, Lady Rennie
- 15 Kim Thornton, Pat Howse
- 22 Judi Hans, Danielle/Vincent Jouenne
- 29 Rosemarie and Michael O'Rourke

Lectors – 10:00 am

- 1 Mary Ellen Babbitt, Curt Quaintance
Kent Wenger *intercessor*
Will Brennfleck *chalicist*
Vernet Spence-Brown *chalicist*
- 8 Family Service - TBA
Jolie Chylack *chalicist*
- 15 Shelly Brennfleck, Marty Bloem
Jolie Chylack *intercessor*
Richard Greene *chalicist*
- 22 Susan Thomas, Beverly Burkhardt
Todd Jackson *intercessor*
Ron Druckenmiller *chalicist*
- 29 Georgette Druckenmiller, Mona Chylack
Ron Druckenmiller *intercessor*
Jolie Chylack *chalicist*

Acolytes

- 1 Victor Jackson
Colin Parker, Sean Magee
- 8 Frank Rothenberger
Emma Martz, Rebecca Martz
- 15 Trey Foerster
Isaac Nagy, Coleman Nagy
- 22 Victor Jackson
Christian Wenger, Leo Wenger
- 29 Frank Rothenberger
Will Brennfleck, Emma Martz

Ushers

- 1 Clem Young, Sam Smith
- 8 Mark Hammaker, Robert Parker
- 15 Curt Quaintance, Carl Rennie
- 22 Bruce Alling, Jim Tackett
- 29 John Andrews, Jim Tackett

Financial Update ~ January 2020

from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's in January, 2020 is outlined below.

- Income
 - Total open plate donations were \$1,287 and pledge income was \$23,074 which is in line for the 2020 budget in the first month of the year.
 - Total operating income was \$27,010 which includes \$1.7K in rent from the Clinic.
 - Total income, including pass through/designated income of \$14,203, was \$41,492. Designated income included \$10,560 in Capital Campaign funds.
- Expense
 - Total operating expenses were \$22,813 resulting in an operating surplus of \$4,197.
 - Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$36,479 were \$59,292. This included \$34,761 in Capital Campaign expenses.

St. Peter's reported an overall deficit of negative (\$17,800) in the first month of 2020. There were sufficient funds in the Capital Campaign account from prior periods to cover the actual Capital Campaign expenses in 2020.

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

Account Balances (as of 1/31/20):

- Checking: \$57,752
- Savings: \$10,586
- Certificates of Deposit: \$43,494
- Youth Group: \$1,404
- Pantry/Outreach: \$18,870
- Mission: \$732
- Building Maintenance: \$34,901
- Concert Series: \$4,505
- Capital Campaign: \$172,253
- Ecumenical Meal Program: \$2,307
- Columbarium Project: \$3,063
- Petty Cash: \$200
 - **Total Cash: \$338,538**

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