

SAINT PETER'S NET

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

A Note From The Rector

Pentecost Peace and Blessings to you and your loved ones.

Someone told me when I was first ordained that as a Priest I should always have "The heart of a believer, the mind of a cynic, the tongue of a poet and the voice of a prophet" these statements have never been any truer. I have recently found that It's hard to perpetually be in both a pastoral posture of taking care of those of us who are grieving and angry and losing hope, while also trying to hold a prophetic posture of calling out injustice, racism, fear, hate, and indifference.

We have witnessed murder live on our screens, disregard of human life, pride, arrogance chest thumping, photo ops, destruction of property and dreams and white supremacy wars. Many of us have expressed anger, frustration and helplessness to all these and much more. Many of us have responded by talking to those under our care, to our communities in person and online, some of us have joined in the protests physically and virtually, all of us I know have prayed and there is still much more work that we need to do individually and corporately. Religion has at many occasions separated us. We have so many subjective theological expositors that we end up in a world with a whole lot of schisms and isms', but if we differ on how to get to heaven, we all ought to understand how we need to live here on earth. ***"Our long-term commitment to racial justice and reconciliation is embedded in our identity as baptized followers of Jesus. We will still be doing it when the news cameras are long gone."*** Bishop Michael Curry.

During this season, God is calling for us to exchange our brokenness and conflict for peace. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom. It means wholeness, and points toward a time when everything will be as it should be. God offers us the opportunity to make peace with him through Jesus. God then invites us to extend peace to others because it has been given to us. The Prophet Isaiah wrote ***"Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."*** Isaiah 35:3-4.

St. Francis of Assisi wrote the powerful prayer below. It is a prayer asking God to help us to live in a way that participates in God's peace-making efforts. Perhaps we can make it our own prayer as we receive and offer shalom today and prepare ourselves for the work of healing, reconciliation, education, voting, advocacy and rebuilding that is ahead.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

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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. 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 Wells, Junior Warden
Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

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What's Happening At St. Peter's

June 2020

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O divine Master, grant that I 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.

Fr. Sam

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Deacon's Roundtable

Our meditation for this month is based on Mark 12:38-44 where we read about the elderly woman who gave her last few coins to the Temple treasury. As a widow, she probably had no source of income; she may very well have needed those coins to buy her dinner. We don't really know what motivated her to do this, but we do know one thing for sure: she trusted God. She trusted that even as she gave all she had, God would provide for her.

Trust, in many ways, is the foundation of generosity. When we give something away to someone else, we have to trust that God will fill our lack. If we donate to the ministries of our parish, such as the pantry, we have to trust that we will still have enough to pay our bills and save for the future. If we stay up late talking to a friend in distress, we have trust that God will get us through the next day with less sleep. If we volunteer at the pantry or for some other project at the church or in our community, we have to trust that we will still be able to get all our errands and chores done before we go back to work on Monday.

The truth is, the more we practice generosity, the more our trust in God grows. It often takes a leap of faith to believe that we really will have enough money, time or energy if we give it away. When we make a decision to be generous, we are demonstrating our trust in God. We are giving God the opportunity to show us how God cares for us. Either God will

supply what we lack, or God will give us the grace to do without. In either case we will be blessed.

During this time of uncertainty with health and finances Jesus commends us when we stretch out our hands to help and support people in need. Jesus knows it will help us to grow closer to him. The next time you have the opportunity to give generously, think of it as an act of trust in the Lord. Look around, for you will see that God cares for you. Keep in mind that no one can outdo God in generosity.

Thank you to all who have helped to keep St. Peter's parish as a shining light of generosity to the less fortunate in our community.

Deacon Joe

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The Plan for Re-entry to Church

Diane Hope, Senior Warden



The Vestry is actively planning for the re-entry to Church. The Bishop has given us good guidance for the items to be considered for a safe plan to resume in-person activity.

Our overarching principles will be to err on the side of caution for our parishioners and look closely at our local numbers of Covid cases. We plan to continue on-line services for some period of time after return to fill the need for parishioners who have a heightened health risk.

Our re-entry will happen when we are confident all aspects of a safe plan are ready. More information will follow as we move forward.

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A Heartfelt Thank You



Recent life has been so hard, and I'm only now beginning to come out of the shock of Dick's terrible accident and subsequent passing to eternal life April 23rd. Your beautiful cards and kind words of condolence are a source of great comfort to me as I march through the grieving process.

We so enjoyed our time worshipping together at St. Peter's. That was a new experience for both of us. Over the past twenty years of our married life, Dick had always been involved with the choir, or the chalicists and lay readers and I had always been involved with the music. Spending time with all of you on Sunday mornings was always a happy time for us and I thank you. for those times. Father Sam and Deacon Joe's telephone calls of support over the past few weeks have been very helpful to me as well. I thank each of you for your support and besides your messages of sympathy, I am incredibly grateful for your offers of assistance: i.e. food deliveries, telephone calls, errand help and all the strangeness that the pandemic has brought forth for high risk persons like myself. I wouldn't be getting through this painful time without your help.

Again, thank you so much for your support. You have given me much comfort during a very painful time of my life and for that I will be eternally grateful.

In peace and love, *Karen Greene*

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Life Events



Alexander Shawhan Fox, graduating this year from Coatesville Area High School, is planning

to attend Elizabethtown College to pursue a course of study in Physics. He will be attending via a full scholarship earned for both his academics and his running talent. He hopes one day to work in the aerospace field. He follows in the footsteps of his grandfather who also pursued Physics in college. Alex has been an avid runner throughout his high school career, participating in both Track and Cross Country. He also enjoys ice hockey and has played on teams both locally and as a travel team member. Alex is a member of the German Club, the Ski Club, and has attended New Life summer camps to further his devotion to our Lord. Alex is grateful and excited to be part of the St. Peter's Family!

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New Member Ministry Facts About Growing Churches

Most churches claim to be friendly. In fact, many churches put that expression in their logo or tag line. The truth is that sometimes church members are friendly to the people they already know, but not to guests.



Fact#2 – Many church members aren't as friendly as they think they are.

A lack of friendliness before and after the service sends a mixed message to new people. The six most important minutes of a church service, in a visitor's eyes, are the three minutes before the service and the three minutes after the service, when church members introduce themselves, seeking genuinely to get to know the visitors, introduce them to others who may have a connection (perhaps they live in the same neighborhood, are from the same hometown or state, or their children attend the same school), or any number of ways to demonstrate to the visitors that they as a church member.

When this pandemic is finally over and we have the opportunity to visit other churches, please note how you were welcomed. Did anyone say “hello” to you? Was a greeter available to answer questions or provide assistance? Were you invited to coffee hour or introduced to others? Unfulfilled promises of a “Welcoming Church” can damage a church’s effectiveness in welcoming new people.

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Update on St. Peter’s Pantry



In the news constantly these days is the number of people lining up at food banks everywhere. In addition to our normal lineup of non-perishables, fresh milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables and bread we have stepped up our game to include even more fruits and vegetables and frozen one-person meals prepared by the Chester County Food Bank. In the last month we have seen about 25 new persons/families come through as we continue to distribute from the parking lot in a flow designed to minimize contact. Unfortunately we miss that personal contact since everyone is wearing a mask and our process of distribution is designed to maintain the social distancing concept.

As you may know, the Phoenixville Area School District has been distributing two days’ worth of breakfast and lunches, three days per week, to all families that arrive at one of their five distribution points in Phoenixville instead of serving those meals in the school cafeteria. But what happens when school ends on June 10th?

For the last four years, we at St. Peter’s have stepped into that void, recruited volunteers and administered the USDA Summer Food Program in recognition of the urgent need to maintain meals through the summer months. This year, the District has decided to operate the USDA

Summer Food Program and we applaud their commitment to maintaining their five distribution sites.

Recently we received a \$10,000 donation to our pantry from a local business person who prefers to be anonymous. In addition to operating our pantry, we have committed \$5,000 of this money to supplement the school district’s efforts as we believe this is the best way to reach families in need.. Once school ends, the USDA summer program will be run with volunteers under the direction of the district and we will have a role to play in recruiting those volunteers since we anticipate many of our former volunteers might be interested in participating in this effort.

We can be proud of our tradition as a parish and many of us as individuals working for the common good in our community. Thank you for your continuing support that keeps this tradition alive and working for our brothers and sisters here and abroad.

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Urgent Request – Cristosal

we can help

Recently the Mission Committee received this urgent request authored by Noah Bullock, Executive Director of Cristosal:

“This is a pivotal moment in El Salvador’s history. The COVID-19 pandemic has created cover for Presidential overreach and abuse of power. Cristosal believes that one of the most effective ways to support the fragile democracy in El Salvador is for members of the U.S. Congress to speak out in support of shared democratic values and the protection of journalists and human rights defenders.

While the political situation is deteriorating most rapidly in El Salvador, the others countries where we work are also facing disastrous consequences from the pandemic. Rising hunger in all three Northern Triangle countries –

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador – threatens to become a full blown humanitarian crises. Deportations from the United States have introduced dozens of cases of COVID-19 and have left large number of returned migrants with nowhere to go.

Cristosal is offering three information sessions during June. Each session will include an update on the current situation in El Salvador and information about why Congressional support is essential at this time and different ways to take action”.

If you are interested to participate in one of these sessions, please sign up on Survey Monkey at this internet address:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/survey-taken/?sm=4cVtws9ZYYLInUCrPflqenbITHKP6G0jHDRA45z7XolVcYAdn5pSfNWYzV1N35YrCeBgebWeFph49uhMns_2FXTx0gTJng2BBOgusvrxFOTnQ_3D

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June Anniversaries



- [2] Trevor and Erin Hall
- [5] Robert and Tracy Parker
- [7] Edwin and Karen Hartman
- [10] Mark and Cindy Hammaker
- [13] Michael and Lauren Nagy
- [19] Matthew and Annette Kiernan
- [21] Greg and Sharon Schiele
- [22] Dave and Sue Meadows
- [23] Douglas and Gretchen Streuli
- [26] Chris Goulian and Amy Atlee

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June Birthdays



- [1] Ashley Hans, Stephanie Logar
- [6] Anne Atlee, Clara De Prado
- [8] Dawn Koch
- [10] Jason and Chloe Love
- [12] Lynn Schaefer
- [13] Kent Wenger
- [14] Matthew Dean
- [18] Sherry Ma, Ella Brennfleck
- [19] Michael Nagy
- [21] Tracy Parker
- [23] Brittany Alling, Robert Parker
- [25] Gary Russell
- [30] Walter Boone

Financial Update – April 2020
from Frank Rothenberger, Accounting Warden

The financial position of St. Peter's through April, 2020 is outlined below.

Income

- Total open plate donations were \$6,321 and pledges were \$86,163 (total pledge and open plate \$92,484) through April which is close to expected budget.

- **COVID 19 Update**

- Last year through 4/30/19, open plate giving was \$5,131 and pledge income was \$97,195 so total giving through 4/30/20 in comparison is about 90% of what it was last year. St. Peter's continues to receive giving (online and mail) during the shutdown but it appears to be more sporadic. Total giving will continue to be monitored as the shutdown progresses to ensure St. Peter's continues to receive sufficient income to cover its operating expenses.
- The Bank received \$26K (equivalent to roughly one month of income) in Paycheck Protection Loan funds to cover continuing payroll and certain operating expenses as part of the SBA loan program and it is anticipated these funds will be fully forgiven.
- Total operating income was \$101,953 through April which included \$5,217 in rent from the Clinic. The Clinic did not pay rent in April because of diminished operations but it is anticipated that the Clinic will come current by the end of May. These funds are continuing to be deposited in the Building Maintenance Savings account.
- Total income, including pass through/designated income of \$39,664, was \$141,617. Designated income included \$23,935 in Capital Campaign funds.

Expense

- Total operating expenses were \$94,097 resulting in an operating surplus of \$7,856. Operating Expenses included \$3,676 in repair bills to Trago Mechanical (building maintenance – boiler repair) as well as \$1,139 for the no parking/no smoking sign project that was previously approved.
- Total expenses, including pass-through, one-time and other designated expenses of \$90,075, were \$184,172. This included \$78,020 in Capital Campaign expenses.
- St. Peter's reported an overall deficit of (\$42,554) when considering the Capital Campaign expenses that were covered entirely by previously raised Capital Campaign funds through April, 2020 (Capital Campaign Money Market account has a balance of \$142,838 as of 4/30/20).

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

Account Balances (as of 4/30/20):

Checking: \$54,961	Building Maintenance: \$38,359	Savings/CDs: \$48,086
Youth Group: \$2,246	Pantry/Outreach: \$20,195	Mission: \$736
Concert Series: \$4,505	Capital Campaign: \$142,838	
Columbarium Project: \$3,064	Ecumenical Meal Program: \$2,128	Petty Cash: \$200
Total Cash: \$317,118		

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