

St. Peter's



Good News

MARCH 2013

ADULT CONFIRMATION

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

Would you like to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church?

Are you already confirmed in another denomination, but want to be received into this Communion?

Are you a cradle Episcopalian who would like to review just what we are all about?

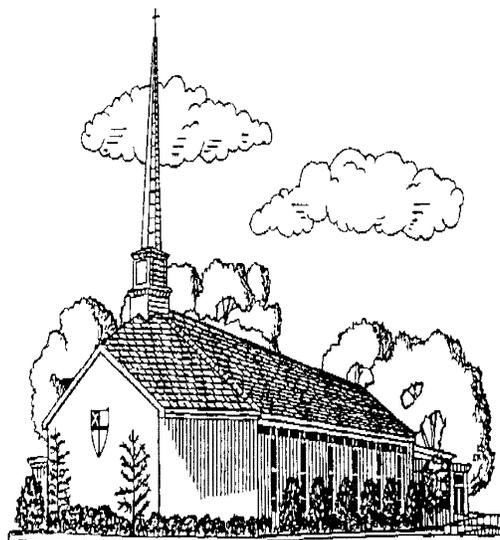
If so, this class is for you!

This special Adult Class is planned for all those interested in confirmation, reception, reaffirmation of Baptismal vows, or a review in the basics of our faith.

Meeting times will be Wednesdays April 10, April 17, April 24, May 1, May 8 and May 15 in the library.

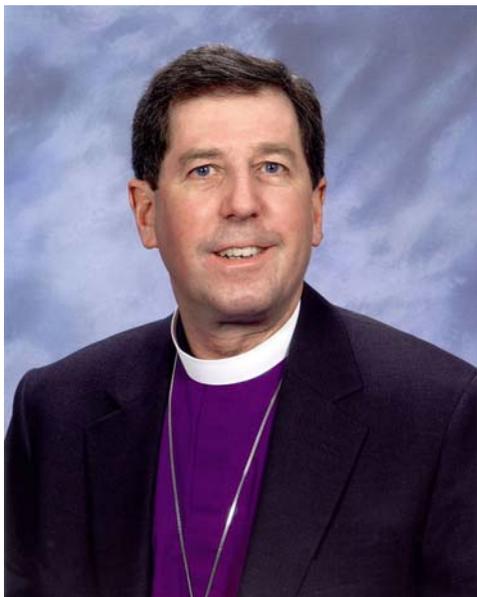
Those who participate in the class will be prepared (but not required to participate in) for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation at Bishop George Councill's visit to St. Peter's on Sunday, May 19, 2013.

Please contact Lisa Miner in the Church Office if you are interested in joining this class.



THE BISHOP IS COMING !

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH !



March Calendar Highlights

- March 10.....St. Paul's Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.
- March 12.....Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m..
- March 17.....Vestry Dinner 5:00 p.m.
- March 25.....Caps and Laps 1:00 p.m.
- March 25.....Monday in Holy Week HE 7:00 p.m.
- March 26.....Tuesday in Holy Week HE 7:00 p.m.
- March 27.....Wednesday in Holy Week HE 7:00 p.m.
- March 28.....Maundy Thursday & Agape Meal 6:00 p.m.
- March 29.....Youth Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.
- March 30.....The Great Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m.
- March 31.....Easter Sunday

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

“The 1979 Book of Common Prayer”, in the Catechism, says what the ministry of a Bishops is:

The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ’s name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ’s ministry.

At the beginning of March the Episcopal Election of the Diocese of New Jersey submitted the names of the following persons to be nominated for election as the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey at the Electing Convention.

- The Reverend David Anderson
- The Reverend Dr. Joan Beilstein
- The Reverend Dr. Allen F. Robinson
- The Reverend Canon Melissa M. Skelton
- The Reverend Canon William Stokes
- The Reverend Martha Sylvia Ovalle Vásquez

The full report on the nominees can be found at: <http://www.bishopsearchnj.org/#post-562>.

None of these six candidates is currently serving in the Diocese of New Jersey, with only one having served at any time. I find it very difficult to accept that the Committee found no priest of the Diocese qualified to be nominated. I have had discussions with a number of clergy and lay people of the Diocese who were disappointed in the nominees, as well.

After much prayer, I believe God is calling me to stand for election for Bishop of New Jersey. The Canons allow for further candidates to be nominated by petition (two signatures of persons from five of the eight Conventions of the Diocese). Such a petition will be filed for me by the required date of February 27. At the beginning of the election process I was nominated by several people. I submitted the required paperwork and was eliminated from consideration at the first cut. I was content to leave the process at that time.

I would be very happy to continue as Rector of St. Peter’s until my retirement quite a few years from now. I love St. Peter’s and all of you. My ministry here is rich and fulfilling. This is a wonderful parish and I am honored and blessed to be your Rector. There is more for us to accomplish together.

That being said, I believe God is calling me to stand for election. I love the Diocese of New Jersey and have served almost 20 of my close to 33 years of ordained ministry. There are wonderful congregations, clergy, and people in this Diocese. God has led me to experiences and blessed me with skills that I believe would be helpful to our Diocese as its Bishop.

This is a process to discern God’s will for the Diocese of New Jersey and for me. I ask for your prayers for Lynn and me, and for our Diocese.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Don

BODY & SOUL

By Edith Green, R.N.

We're now in the throes of the Lenten season; the time for penitence, reflection and self-discipline. The word Lent has no spiritual significance but denotes a time of year. It is a shortened form of Middle English 'lenten' and Old English 'lencten' meaning 'long' and refers to the lengthening days of spring.

It began as a period of fasting, almsgiving and training required of new converts to be baptized or confirmed at Easter. At first this period was limited to a day or two or to forty consecutive hours. By 840 the present forty-day period was established, four days beginning on Ash Wednesday added to make the number (40) chosen to match the duration of Moses' stay on Mt. Sinai, Elijah's journey and Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness.

In ancient times Lenten observance was rigorous, demanding self-denial in all worldly things. There were no festivals, marriages were forbidden and people fasted, eating only one meal a day toward evening. Meat, fish, eggs and dairy foods were forbidden. This was by statute as well as ecclesiastic law until 1688. After that rules weren't enforced but remained on the books until 1863. Fish became a major Lenten food and in 1563, Queen Elizabeth I, motivated more by the economy than religion, proclaimed by Act of Parliament that her countrymen must eat fish on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Apparently it was hoped to bring down the price of meat and encourage ship-building.

In today's world, most of us manage to observe the Lenten season in ways that are meaningful to each of us. Some of us attend morning or evening prayers, some do extra spiritual reading, some practice self-denial by giving up favorite foods and some of us do extra things like giving our time to favorite causes. It matters not what we decide to do during this Lenten season, but it matters that we do something. Something that will help us prepare for the Feast of Easter that celebrates Our Lord's Resurrection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER COMMUNION

We invite each one of you to join us in worship at one of our Easter services, but realize that some of you may be unable to attend due to illness or infirmity. If this is the case for you or someone you know, please contact Deacon Helen by leaving a message at the church office (609-654-2963) or by emailing her at dcnhelen@stpetersmedford.org. St. Peter's clergy will be visiting all of our known homebound and ill patients during Eastertide to bring Holy Communion, and will be happy to visit you or any other parishioner in need.

PRESIDING BISHOP'S MESSAGE

The United States has witnessed far too many public shootings in recent months and years. Far too many lives have been cut short or maimed by both random and targeted acts of gun violence. The school shooting in Newtown was horrific, yet since that day several times as many young people have died by gunshot.

It is abundantly clear that Americans are ready to grapple with the complexities of gun violence. The Spirit is moving across this land to mobilize people of faith to act. I urge the United States members of this Church to call your federal legislators on Monday 4 February to express your concern and your expectation that gun violence be addressed. The outlines of the necessary policy decisions are clear and widely supported: limits on sales of military-style weapons and high-capacity magazines, effective background checks for all gun purchases, better access to mental health services, and attention to gun trafficking.

We believe all God's people should be able to live in peace, as Zechariah dreams, "old men and women shall again sit in the streets...And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing." The prophet reminds his hearers that even if this seems impossible, with God it is not. [Zech 8:4-6] I urge you to add your voice to those clamoring for peace. Call your legislators and sue for peace.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

LENT 2013

FRIDAYS IN LENT – STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 7:00 PM in the Church

From the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church: A series of 14 pictures or carvings, designed for devotional purposes, which depict incidents in the last journey of Christ from Pilate's house to His entombment. ... it is a popular devotion, especially during Lent and Passiontide to visit the stations in order, reciting prayers and meditating on each incident.

At St. Peter's this is led by members of the congregation, processing around the church to each station, passing on the cross and leadership for the devotions at each station.

THURSDAY BIBLE 101 – LECTIO DIVINA at 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM Library

A very ancient art, practiced at one time by all Christians, is the technique known as "lectio divina" - a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures which enables the Bible, the Word of God, to become a means of union with God. We will learn this prayer technique and practice it through the Thursdays of Lent.

SUNDAY MORNINGS – ADULT STUDY AT 9:15 AM in Moore Chapel : Parables of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. Video presentation by Dr. Verna Dozier followed by a discussion.

WEDNESDAY SOUP AND STUDY FEB. 27, MARCH 6, 13, 20

6:30 PM Soup will be provided in the Library
7:00 PM Evening Prayer
7:30 PM Study begins in the Library, ends at 9:00 PM

Finding a Voice: A Lent Course on the film

LENT 2013

'The King's Speech'

Finding a Voice is a new and original Lent course by Hilary Brand. Taking the film, The King's Speech, as a starting point, the course explores the ways in which fear holds us back and examines how we, like Bertie, can face and overcome our fears and begin to find our authentic voice.

The course is based around five weekly group sessions which each includes extracts from the film, group discussion questions, exercises and meditations. There are also short introductory and follow up chapters, with related Bible passages, for individual reading each week.

Morning and Evening Prayer

We are nearing the time of year when many Christians ask themselves: "What will I give up for Lent?" Answers often range from "chocolate" (a neat diet trick) to something less tangible, such as "complaining."

Have you thought of asking yourself: "What am I taking on for Lent?" Whether you choose to add daily Bible reading, meditation, or extra personal prayer time to your schedule, all will open you further to God. Another suggestion is to join your fellow parishioners in reading Morning and/or Evening Prayer as often as possible.

Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday at 9:00 am in the Rev. Canon James L. Moore Memorial Chapel

Evening Prayer: Monday-Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Rev. Canon James L. Moore Memorial Chapel

On Friday evenings, you are invited to gather in the church at 7:00 pm to walk the Stations of the Cross. Each service takes about ½ hour. We invite you to offer this special time of God and to yourself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ART AUCTION RECAP AND THANKS

St. Peter's Art Auction on February 2nd was a great success! Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered. Please join me in the coming days to give special thanks to the setup crew : Dakota Campbell, Dave Smith, Jamie Smith, Joe Kelly, and Danielle Colaianni ; hospitality crew: Laurel Smith, Jamie Smith, Cindy Cullen, Amy Porreca, Mela Montgomery, Jennifer Buzby, and of course Trudy McArthur ; auction runners : Jamie Cureton, Dave Smith, and Carl Ausfahl ; cashiers : Jennifer Buzby, Doug Hadden, and Danielle Colaianni ; and finally the brave souls on the cleanup crew : Mike Orlando, Dave Smith, Father Don, Laurel Smith, Carl Ausfahl and Trudy McArthur. And a very special THANK YOU to Lisa Minerd for all her organizational work and accounting. We sold more than 130 tickets and approximately 80 of them braved the snowy evening to enjoy a couple of hours of laughs, fellowship, and some great purchases and spirited bidding. All told, this fundraiser raised nearly \$2500 for St. Peter's !!! I look forward to your ideas on how to make this event even better in the future ! Thank you as well to those who donated wine, and indeed to everyone who supported the Art Auction ! Respectfully submitted,
John Colaianni, Warden

There will be no Sunday School classes on March 31 (Easter Day) or April 7. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 14.

Please return your **Mite Box** by April 14. The money collected will be given to our MDG project in Mayange, Rwanda. Also encourage your children to use their **offering envelopes** because that money also is used toward Mayange. The Lenten calendars that were passed out in Sunday School and that are also in the Narthex will help us to remember our blessings as well as guide us in putting our coins in the Mite Box.

YOUTH IN THE ARTS

St. Peter's own Kela McEntee is starring in Shawnee High School's musical production "FOOTLOOSE" as Urleen. Congratulations Kela ! Others from the St. Peter's family involved with the production include Kimberly Hoover, Ezra Dufala, Austin Marsdale, and Mickey Pagnotta. Congratulations to all involved in this great production !

Gray Myers recently performed in the Lenape Regional Orchestra in the violin section. Congratulations Gray ! To see Gray and the rest of the orchestra in action please see :

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BLk9o_t6gk

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLP0NiW-q6k>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUkpu2GztMA>

EASTER SERVICE—SIGN LANGUAGE

Thanks to a generous grant from the Commission on Ministry With the Disabled, Trinity Cathedral will have the services of an American Sign Language interpreter at its 10:30 service on Easter morning. We want very much to get the word out to anyone who uses ASL so that they can join us to celebrate Easter. If you have anyone in your parish, or elsewhere in your community, please let them know that we are waiting to welcome them at 801 West State Street, Trenton, on Sunday, March 31.

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

What do you say when your child asks a question about God? Do you feel comfortable talking about your beliefs or do you have the courage to say, "I don't know, but we can find out together". Where do you go to find the answers to questions of faith that your child or that you have? What is the best way to pass our Christian faith on to the next generation? Is talking about God and religion as scary as talking about sex?

In her book, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, Wendy Mogel, Ph.D., writes in the last chapter, *The Blessings of Faith and Tradition*, about how faith is passed on from generation to generation. Although she is writing from the perspective of the Jewish faith, what she and the learned Rabbis have to say applies to the passing on of the Christian faith as well. So here are some of Wendy Mogel's thoughts about passing on our faith to our children in a Christian key:

- Little children don't need theology, they need to meet God. The best way to introduce your child to God is to point out what God does. If you want your child to meet God, you'll need to show her frequently that God is close to her, too. It gets easier when you remember that unseen things can be very real. You can give examples as you notice them. To meet God we have to be like detectives and look for clues. You can do this together!
- If we want our children to experience the Christian religion we have to be a part of it too. Using what a rabbi called "pediatric religion" or "carpool religion" (children get shuttled to Sunday school while parents stay home) or "dry-cleaning religion" (you send them to the experts to be spiritually cleaned and pressed), just doesn't work. Sunday school alone won't accomplish the two things you may most hope to give your children: a lifelong commitment to ethical and spiritual teachings and a legacy that they can pass on to your grandchildren.
- Remember that you are your child's first teacher. That means teaching about your faith through example just as you teach your child about being kind, generous and loving. If you turn the religious and spiritual education of your child over to professionals, he may lose what he needs most – your touch, your life experience, and your angle on the issues.

When children go to religious education and there is no follow up at home, no prayer, no discussion, no rituals – parents send the message that religion is good for children but irrelevant for adults: that it is something to be outgrown, like cartoons.

When our children go through a rite of passage like Confirmation we don't want them to use this as a door out of Church. Keep up with the faith traditions of your family, making sure they evolve as your child gets older and you will get something out of this too.

Nobody said raising children would be easy. However, by keeping close to your community of faith I can assure you that we will get through this together.

Blessings,

Sue



PARISH FAMILY NEWS

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

None this month.

WEDDINGS

None this month.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None this month.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS

This month's issue of St. Peter's Good News includes an envelope to enable you to make an offering in memory of loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for God's gracious action in your life. Funds received will be used to beautify the church and chapel for the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Day.

Please bring or mail your Flower Offering envelope to St. Peter's by March 25 for the names of your loved ones to be published in the Easter bulletins.



As of January 31, 2013

Income	\$ 29,313.85
Expenses	\$ 29,310.95
Difference	\$ 2.90

THE BISHOP IS COMING !

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH !

10:15 AM EUCHARIST !

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

DEACON'S BENCH

By Deacon Helen Orlando

Where in the World is Mayange, Rwanda? - Culture

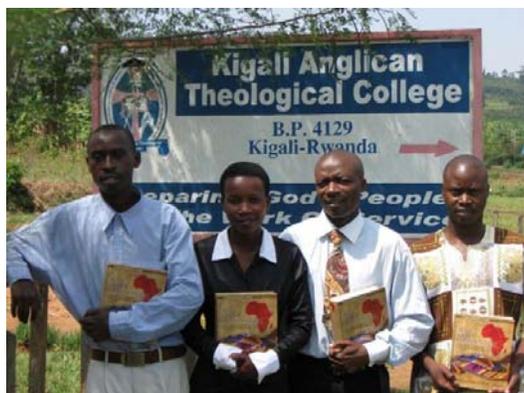
“Culture” is defined as the characteristics of a particular group of people, including everything from language to religion, social habits, cuisine, music and the arts. Following is a brief summary of the first three of these topics. Our MDG Team invites you to revisit our updated “Where in the World...?” bulletin board for photographs and other information relating both to this article and to next month’s article on the cuisine, music and arts of Rwanda.

Rwanda has three official languages: Kinyarwanda, French, and English. Kinyarwanda, a dialect of the Rwanda-Rundi language, is spoken by 12 million people in Rwanda. Notably, Rwanda is one of few Sub-Saharan African countries where the native language is spoken by all ethnic groups (Hutu, Tutsi, Twa).

The Rwandan constitution provides for freedom of religion, which is supported by the current government. Currently, over 93% of Rwandans worship as Christians, of whom 56.5% are Roman Catholic and 26% Protestant. 4.6% of the population is Muslim and a minority continues ancient, indigenous religious customs (as do some Christians).

The Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda counts over eight dioceses and forty parishes, each of which includes 15-20 congregations. Led by its current Archbishop, Onesphore Rwaje, the Anglican Church of Rwanda works to heal those still traumatized by the recent genocide through its ministries of reconciliation, restoration, and rehabilitation. Rwandan Anglicans are also involved in rural development, medical work, vocational training, and education. One of the church’s major priorities is the training of clergy, to replace those lost during the genocide.

Rwandan social habits demonstrate respect and emphasize social rank, both within and outside of the family. In mixed-sex groupings, chairs are reserved for men, who also eat before others. Where we in this country tend to greet everyone by shaking hands, the people of Rwanda follow an elaborate system of greetings that varies depending on social rank and on the familiarity of those greeting each other. Because hospitality is valued, visitors are always given the best chairs and the first choice of food and drink. To be continued...



PARISH PHOTO ALBUM

St. Peter's Youth (of all ages !) participating in our Annual Valentine's Day Outreach Project. Special thanks to our project leader Kelly Wu !!! Photos courtesy of Kelly Wu on this page and next.



VALENTINE'S DAY OUTREACH PROJECT

By Kelly Wu

On February 10th the children of the Sunday school program came together in Williams Hall with other parishioners to participate in a multi-generational outreach project. The children created unique and beautiful Valentine's Day cards for patients at Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital and for home bound parishioners.

A huge basket full of donated gift items was adorned with these cards and delivered to the hospital on Monday, February 11. The recreational therapist, Corinne, was happy to accept our Valentine's Day basket and sent a hand-made thank you card to us. The gifts are being enjoyed by the children as the days pass slowly. The cards were distributed to the patients and also used as decorations for the general activity room.

I want to thank all of you that donated the gift items, activity books, and stuffed animals. I also want to thank Sue Legnani for organizing all the craft items for the card making session. I was also blessed to have my mother, Shirley Young, assist me with the delivery. It was more than one person could carry!

This was the third year for this project, and every year you all come through with generosity, time, effort, and caring. The staff at the hospital now looks forward to our basket and is familiar with our church. This is truly what outreach is all about. Thank you to you all.

In God's Love,

Kelly Wu

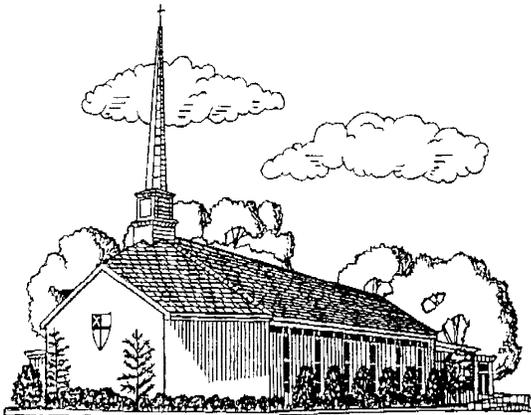


St. Peter's Episcopal Church

One Hartford Road, Medford, NJ 08055
The Rev. Donald J. Muller, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Canon Ronald Asbury, Associate Priest
The Rev. Helen M. Orlando, Deacon

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Saint Peter's Church is a blessed community of faith, grounded in the power of God's transforming love, where Jesus Christ welcomes all to abundant life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we follow Him in prayer and praise, study and service.



Service Schedule

Saturday Eucharist.....5 p.m.
Sunday Traditional Eucharist.....7:45 a.m.
Family Eucharist.....10:15 a.m.
Weekdays
Thursday, Healing Eucharist.....10 a.m.
Morning Prayer (Monday-Friday).....9 a.m.

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