



St. Peter's Run and Pray 5k a Success!

On Saturday, June 20th, over 50 runners and walkers gathered at St. Peter's for the first ever Run and Pray 5k. The weather was a bit humid, but breezy and overcast. The run wound its way through the very shady Hoot Owl development, which was ideal for a run like this. Not only did many St. Peter's parishioners turn out to help out and cheer on the runners, but local residents stood at the end of their driveways and cheered on the runners as they went by. Near the end of the race, to give everyone a last spurt of energy, Father Don spritzed the runners with holy water...using a water gun!

Congratulations to all who ran and especially those who finished top in their age categories, including a few St. Peter's parishioners: Elizabeth Adler, best female time in the 0-10 age bracket, Michael Scarpulla, best male time in the 11-14 age bracket and Mandy Danser, best female time in the 20-29 age bracket.

Much thanks to Mike Krug for his leadership on this event, and the many volunteers who helped out by recruiting runners, working the registration table, setting up and cleaning up, cheering on the runners and serving as Race Monitors along the route. It did more than raise money for St. Peter's; it was a fun day that invited the community's participation and encouraged us all to keep our bodies physically healthy as well as spiritually healthy!



Photos courtesy of Kristine Adler and Gena Krug.

Summer Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

July 8 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

July 12 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.

July 12 – 16 Vacation Bible School, 6 – 8:00 p.m.

August 9 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.

Note: Office hours during July and August are

9:00 am-12:00 p.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by *The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller*

Recently, I've been reflecting on relationships. At the end of April I saw on Facebook many, many congratulations on my birthday; then my anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate,. Like so many others, I get notices of birthday's, wedding anniversaries, and other life events of people I've "friended" on Facebook, and other social media sites. I see pictures of reunions, of people who have been friends since grade school or before. I've heard of family members who have been estranged until a family crisis. All of this has caused me to reflect on the "stewardship" of relationships.

Merriam Webster-Stewardship: the activity or job of protecting and being responsible for something.

Wikipedia-Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of *resources*.

Both of these definitions take into account action – protecting, being responsible, planning, management – which I think can be directed to the relationships we have with people God has brought into our life. Some of these people we had no choice about, many others we have chosen to include.

I am a bit jealous of those who have friendships going back before grade school. We moved out of NYC in time for me to start kindergarten in Roosevelt. After 6th Grade, while my brother Charlie and I were at Boy Scout Camp we moved to Monroe. Two years after graduating from college I went to seminary, never to live in Monroe again. I have no connection with any one from my grade school years. I have some relationship with some of my high school classmates through Facebook. The same is true for college friends. I wish I had kept in touch. I haven't been a good steward of the people God has sent my way.

Jesus had good friends in Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. When Lazarus died he came (a few days late) to grieve and then to raise Lazarus. He developed relationships with the disciples, gave them instructions, protected them, and even prepared them for his death and resurrection. How do we care for the people God sends our way? Are we good stewards of our relationships?

Within St. Peter's we can be better stewards of the relationships we have with other parishioners. We publish a Parish Directory each quarter, pick one up on the long table in the Narthex. Get to know those who sit around you in church. If you miss them a week or two, give them a call. Statistics show that the sooner new parishioners make social friends in the parish, the more likely they are to become connected. There is a correlation to those who start to drift away. Once they have been away for a while they seem to have fewer and fewer church friends. Let's keep our church friends close. Let's honor those God has sent into our lives by keeping in touch with them, caring about them, spending time with them.

O God, whose fatherly care reacheth to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech thee graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to thee, may be bound together by thy love in the communion of thy Holy spirit, and in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (1979 BCP, page 830)

In Christ,
Father Don

In Christ,

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Christian Formation Director

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit”.

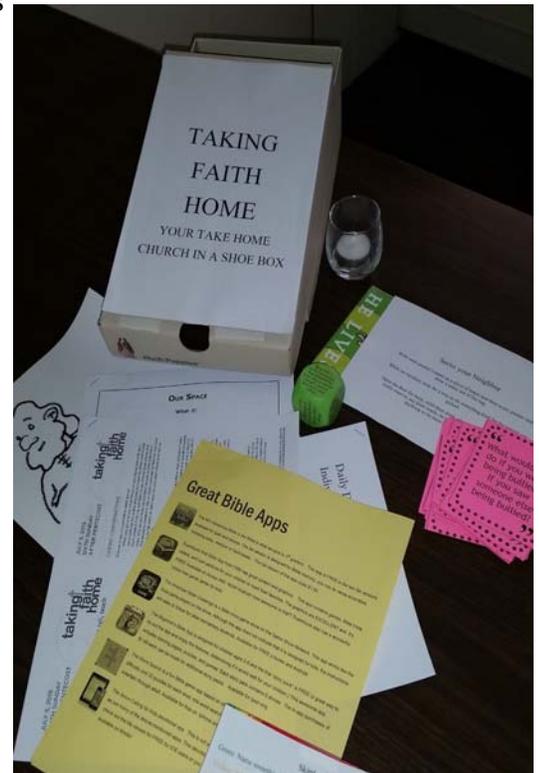
Nelson Henderson

When I read this quote it really hit home. I thought about the parable of the mustard seed we read a few weeks ago in church. There are other stories that involve trees or large shrubs in the Bible as well. We celebrate rogation days in the church and Arbor Day in our country when we plant trees. At this time of year we enjoy the outdoors and look for shady places to sit or picnic. I also have to confess that I'm a bit of a tree hugger and do my best to keep an organic garden at home and in my little veggie plot in a local community garden.

I think we could borrow this quote and change “The true meaning of life” to: “The true meaning of faith is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” When we plant faith we plant the opportunity for ourselves and our children to grow into the vows taken by us or for us at baptism and that we affirm at Confirmation. Faith, after all, is something we have because we are loved and nurtured by those around us. Faith is trust that those we love and who love us will always do whatever they can to support us in our life and faith in Christ.

To help us with the planting of faith in church and in our homes (and this means everyone), St. Peter's is providing a resource titled “Taking Faith Home” that is arriving in your email each week and is also available in the Narthex. A few families have volunteered to use this over the summer and they have received some other materials to go along with this resource. So, just like the TV marketers, **WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT ON THIS OFFER.** You'll find shoeboxes in the Narthex filled with some of these goodies too. Get them while they last and take them on vacation or pull them out at least once a week to use by yourself, with others in your home or those who may be visiting like grandchildren, nieces or nephews. I'm calling them Taking Church Home, but you can take this shoebox of faith anywhere you go, and like a good disciple and tree planter, share your faith with those around you.

I wish you a faith filled summer!



Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

She was a very little girl enjoying a day down the shore with her mother and grandmother. Her grandmother held her hand as the waves crashed at their feet. The day was sunny with bright blue skies. The grandmother didn't notice that the waves were becoming more pronounced and rough. And a BIG one came and knocked them both down. The grandmother without a thought, as she fell and was being pulled out further into the ocean, yelled at the little girl to run to the beach. Fortunately the grandmother wasn't pulled out too far and aside from a few minor bruises, she was fine.

Afterwards, the grandmother thought about the fact that at that moment she never thought about saving herself, her only thought was the safety of her granddaughter. And long afterwards the grandmother was really surprised at her reaction. She had never thought about being in a situation where her concern was between herself and someone else. Have you ever wondered what you would do if you were in a situation where you had a choice about whether you would save yourself or someone else?

On the news we learn about people who willingly push someone else out of harm's way knowing they'll be hurt or killed themselves. What makes someone do that? Is it a conscious thought or does the person do it instinctively like the grandmother? Were we born with that instinct, to save someone else from something horrific only to be hurt ourselves?

Studies have indicated that we're all born with both good and evil inside us. As an old Native American story says, "whichever of those two things succeeds depends on which of those things we feed."

By the way, the grandmother and granddaughter in this story were me and my granddaughter, Eva.

Any finally: Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Confirmation

St. Peter's was blessed by a visit from our Bishop, the Right Reverend William Stokes, on May 30th to confirm and receive a large group of St. Peter's parishioners, and some folks from Trinity in Moorestown.



Photo courtesy of Jim Beard.

DEACON'S BENCH

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's Church,

As I write, Christians and non-Christians throughout our country still reel in shock at the tragic shooting death of the nine people killed at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Recognizing this horrific event, which occurred at the end of a Bible study to which the shooter had been invited, as both an attack on the Christian faith and a heinous example of hate and racism gone mad, churches throughout the country have gathered in prayer, church leaders reached out to each other in support, the Bishops against Gun Violence have walked during General Convention, and many of us have prayed quietly in our homes for the nine members of Emanuel AME who lost their lives, as well as for the one who survived.

Soon, the Emanuel AME shooting will have disappeared from the headlines. However, as Christians called to love our neighbors, seek and serve Christ in all persons, and strive for justice and peace among all people, we cannot let it disappear from our hearts, minds, and souls.

Our Bishop, the Right Reverend William Stokes, has stated: "Sadly, this shooting appears to represent a confluence of evils that have plagued, and continue to plague, life in the United States: endemic racism, an "original sin" in our nation's origins which has never been adequately addressed or resolved; a cultural propensity to violence combined with easy access to guns resulting in frequent mass shootings and too many Americans accepting this as somewhat normative and to be expected; a pattern of deranged behavior by young men who are clearly mentally ill and who live in a country with a mental health system."

The problems of racism, violence, and lack of appropriate care for the mentally ill are not new, but have been easy for those of us who are not their victims to ignore or forget. So, even as we pray, let us also work to actively address these societal issues which are so contrary to the will of God. God, who is even now carrying out the plan of salvation, invites us to share with "him" in this work, so that "the whole world [will] see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord..." AMEN.

Deacon Helen Orlando

PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

College Graduates

Ellen Ensminger, Master's Degree in Criminal Justice, Rowan University .

Kyle Semmel, Susquehanna University, Bachelor of Arts in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations.

Kristen Marie Lusk, Towson University, Bachelor's of Art degree in International Studies and minors in Cultural Studies and Electronic Media and Film.

High School Graduates

Jessica Butler, Christian Burke, Mitchell Dominguez, Kela McEntee, Jenna Semmel

Eighth Grade Graduates

Rachel Cherry, Mekenna Montgomery, Alec Rodden, Cassidy Smith, Donovan Wu



Online giving is now available at St. Peter's through a company named Faith-Street. This is a simple and secure way for you to give to St. Peter's. The process is simple. Visit the St. Peter's website (<http://stpetersmedford.org/>) or Facebook page and click on the "Give online" button or scan the QR code below with your smart phone or tablet to get started. You can also give by text with a smart phone. Text the amount you'd like to give to (646) 832-4848. You will receive a text back with a link. Click on the link and enter the code "stpetesmedford". You will have to complete a one time set up, but then after that, you can text any amount and it will be processed immediately. How easy!



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Emerson Lyle Frisco, daughter of Elizabeth Curry and Dawn Frisco

Lincoln Arthur Frisco, son of Elizabeth Curry and Dawn Frisco

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



Thank you to the Moore family for organizing another fabulous golf tournament which was not only a fun and colorful event, but helped to raise a significant amount of money for St. Peter's!
(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Buzby.)



St. Peter's parishioner, Jayne Unger (far right), helped carry the banner for the first lap of the Relay for Life along with other cancer survivors from the area. A team of parishioners took turns walking the track for much of the event. Please consider joining the team next year! *(Photo courtesy of Cindy Cullen.)*



On the last day of Sunday School, a very competitive game of jeopardy was hosted by Alexis Gosewich and Debbie Worsdell, two of our Sunday School teachers. Thanks to Sue Legnani for developing the questions and gathering the prizes!
(Photo courtesy of Sue Legnani.)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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

Lisa Miner, Parish Administrator Eleanor Meyer, Director of Music Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation
Tel: 609-654-2963 Fax: 609-654-0401 <http://www.stpetersmedford.org>
Email: office@stpetersmedford.org Newsletter email: stpetersnewsletter@stpetersmedford.org

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.

Summer 2015

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Service Schedule

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

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
1 Hartford Road
Medford, NJ 08055

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