



LENTEN STUDY AT SAINT PETER'S 2018



Starts Lent 2018 meetingjesusinjohn.org #meetingjesus

“Meeting Jesus in John” a six week offering of prayer and reflection from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist & the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary.

“When I am caught up in the trials and tribulations of life, John’s presentation

of the mystery of the Incarnation is what brings me through. We are tabernacles of God, called to be bearers of God. All we have to do is say ‘Yes.’ But first we have to know that God believes us special enough to dwell within us, so that we might bring Christ into the world for other people.” – Br. Jim Woodrum, SSJE

In this six-week offering, we Brothers invite you to reflect with us on the person of Jesus, his mission and his message, as it is presented in the writings of John. In a short video each day, delivered to your inbox, an SSJE Brother will comment on a verse from the Gospel or First Epistle of John, sharing something of what this verse means to him and suggesting ways in which you might pray with it. Each week offers six verses for reflection. We hope that on the seventh day you’ll meet with a small group or a spiritual friend to share your experiences.

For Individuals: You can work through the offering on your own. Sign up for the daily email, watch the videos, and reflect on the daily verse. This journal is a place to record your thoughts (through writing, drawing or painting) in response to each day’s reading. You’ll find some ideas for more ways to pray on the facing page. Approach this offering prayerfully – and playfully! No two journals will be alike; make yours an expression of your truest self. Additional resources are available online. Group leaders will have robust support in engaging participants in shared discussion and activities for adult and youth groups in a variety of settings.

For Groups: Every Christian belongs to a community of faith (the Church), and because we learn so much from listening to one another, we strongly encourage you, if at all possible, to join a group or invite a friend to share in this offering. In your small group, you will be asked to reflect on the Gospel’s message and respond in community to where and how you met Jesus that week.

Thursday evenings at St. Peter’s beginning at 7:30 pm, 2/15; 2/22; 3/1; 3/8; 3/15; 3/22

Or form your own group with friends and/or other parishioners. Fr. Don will give you help.

Visit the website to access leader resources or to download the journal, also available in a large-print edition.

Sign up for the daily videos and find group resources at www.meetingjesusinjohn.org

February Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

Feb. 6 Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 10 Holy Eucharist and Renewal of Marriage Vows 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 11 St. Paul’s Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.

Feb. 13 Pancake Supper, 5:30

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday, 10 am, 6 pm, 7:30 pm

Feb. 19 Office closed in observance of President’s Day

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

On February 14 Lent begins with our Services of Ash Wednesday (Services at 10 am; 6 pm for Children; 7:30 pm with Choir). I know, it's Valentine's Day. Might I suggest that we celebrate Valentine's Day before or after? (Just for your information now, Easter falls on April 1.) With Ash Wednesday comes the opportunity to get closer to God. I think I can safely say that we are all too busy, doing too much, trying to fit too many things into our schedules and into our lives.

There is work, exercise, social engagements, doctors' visits, Church obligation, and so much more. Perhaps we might take some of the disciplines of Lent to slow down a little by giving something up and taking something on. Here are some suggestions: The Daily Office: Morning or Evening Prayer - one of the great features of the Episcopal Church is the tradition of Morning and Evening Prayer which anyone can do. We will have Morning Prayer in Moore Chapel Monday through Friday mornings at 9:00 am and Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm, Monday through Thursday (Moore Chapel) led by fellow parishioners who would really like you to join them. You could also do either or both Services on your own or within your household in about 15-30 minutes. The genius of the Daily Office is that it gives a plan of regular Bible reading; formal prayer; and intercessory prayer. I would be happy to show you how to say the Daily Office, as I know Deacon Helen would as well.

Stations of the Cross is offered each Friday of Lent at 7:00 pm. It is led by fellow parishioners and moves in procession around the 14 Stations on the column so the Church.

Thursday Evening Study: Meeting Jesus in John 7:30 pm. The Good Book Club: Reading Luke throughout Lent and Acts of the Apostles during Eastertide.

Spiritual Reading - many books in the parish library are available for borrowing, pick one.

Centering Prayer and/or Lectio Divina - Centering Prayer Group meets alternate months in Trinity Moorestown and St. Peter's. A time to sit quietly with God in meditation on a holy Word or Holy Scripture. Fasting - this ancient discipline allow for time and space for God intentionally not eating a particular meal or day. The time usually spent eating could be spent in prayer, meditation, spiritual reading. Walking our Labyrinth - even though it is cold outside the Labyrinth is there in St. Peter's backyard, always available for pilgrimage and prayer.

Self Denial - perhaps we skip a WAWA or Starbuck's coffee (or something else, ice cream?) once a week or more and put the money a Mite Box or coin folder, then donating that money to do God's work.

I encourage you to speak to me or Deacon Helen, we would be happy to help you find your niche this Lent. Do watch for our Lenten Booklet giving all of the options at St. Peter's this Lent.

May you have a blessed Lent this year.

Fr. Don

Church & Home

By Sue Legnani

Whether we have children in our home or not, most of us find it hard to make the space we need to for this season of preparation for the mystery of Easter. It's also a hard season to explain to small children, but I also know some adults who struggle with it too. Many individuals and families have put aside time each day to join together in this pilgrimage of Lent to the cross of Good Friday and the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter Day. The days are beginning to lengthen as we enter into the season of Lent, and this year it begins on St. Valentine's Day so it feels a little off-kilter already. How do you begin the most solemn day of the church year with chocolate hearts and knowing you are going toward Good Friday, the darkest day in the Christian calendar? Perhaps we do that with prayer and the story of St. Valentine's own sacrifice as a Christian priest who gave his life to follow Jesus.

Another way to approach this is to make a prayer space in your home to use during Lent and perhaps beyond this season of the church year. What would a Prayer Space in our home look like? What would it look like for Lent? How and when would I or my family use this Prayer Space? These are some of the questions we can use to create the space we need in our busy lives as we enter the season of Lent. Here are some items to start with along with explanations of what they mean that are found in *Observing Lent in the Home* on www.buildingfaith.org.

Candle: Always a symbol of God's presence with us. When we light the candle it reminds us that God is with us in this place, at this time.

Purple cloth: For those of us who traveled through Advent, the purple of Lent will be a familiar color that represents a time of waiting. We wait through the time of Lent for the great feast of Easter.

Empty bowl: Many of us fast during Lent so that we have more time or energy to remember to talk to God during Lent. We are getting ready for the great mystery of Easter. Older children and adults can write down something they want to fast from and place the paper in the bowl.

Scripture, poem, or prayer: This can be written on cards that can be read liturgically at a time that you choose such as at dinner or before bedtime. The Good Shepherd of Psalm 23 is a wonderful image to meditate on for adults as well as children.

Cross: Take time to look at the cross together and talk about the crucifixion and the resurrection.

Other resources to use during Lent:

Can we have a little fun in Lent? The Supreme Executive Committee of Lent Madness (aka The Rev's Tim Schenck and Scott Gunn) say we can by following the Saintry Scorecard from Forward Movement. Yes, the people who bring you *Forward Day by Day* (available on the table in the Narthex) have also given us the definitive guide to Lent Madness. Based on the idea of basketball's March Madness, we can follow the lives of 32 saints who are matched up two by two each week day during Lent. You can read their biographies and vote on your favorite saint by going to www.lentmadness.org. Make it easy on yourself and sign up to receive daily emails with the match of the day, and to vote on your pick of the day. At the end of Lent the final saint will win the Golden Halo and have his or her face put on a coffee mug. (I have St. Francis!) Scorecards will be available in the Sunday School and in the Narthex. A scorecard poster will be displayed in the Narthex to track the saintly progress through Lent.

Additional websites to use for prayer, spiritual support and inspiration:

www.Growchristians.org: A website with ideas to grow our faith in our homes. This has inspirational ideas for all ages. www.buildingfaith.org: This website contains inspiration for home and church. www.ssje.org: (Society of Saint John the Evangelist) You can sign-up for daily devotions that come to your email.

Try looking at this short devotion first thing in the morning while you have your first cup of coffee, or before you go to bed at night. I wish you a blessed season of Lent.

Sue

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

The Christmas gift giving season is over. The gifts are either being used, have been returned or, dare I say it, put away for re-gifting next year. Do you remember the gift you most treasured over the past years? Perhaps a sentimental gift from a loved one or a gift of something you always wanted. Whatever the gift, it's one you'll always remember.

You might be surprised to know that a gift I'll always remember for whatever reason was a small football. What? A football for a little girl only ten years old? I didn't even know what football was about then, I only knew that I liked the feel of that funny shaped ball that felt good when I held it. It was brown with white ties and stripes and had a pebbly grained 'leather.'

I could throw it up in the air and catch it on its way down. I don't think I ever shared my football with the other kids I played with at the time. For some reason, I felt it was too special a gift to share. After all, how many little girls at that time played with a football?

At some point that football no longer interested me, probably around the time that boys became more interesting. I don't even remember what happened to that brown funny shaped ball. Now, as many of you know, I'm more interested in those big guys who play with footballs in large open fields. Now it's more fun for me to watch others than to try to throw a football around myself.

So, what about that elusive gifts we probably don't think about much, the gifts given to us by God? All the things that make us who we are. All the blessings we are blessed with? How about those? More important, how often do we thank the giver? Please don't let our awareness of those gifts be lost like my old football.

And Finally: What if you woke up tomorrow and only had what you thanked God for today?

Dates to Remember

February 4: Make Valentines for Weisman Rehabilitation Hospital and Neumors in Williams Hall at 9:30. Sunday School will meet at 9 am and join everyone at 9:30.

February 18: Flip Flop Sunday Family Service in the chapel at 9 am and Sunday School at 10:00.

FOR THE FORTY DAYS

THIS Lent, mend a quarrel / Seek out a forgotten friend / Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with trust / Write a letter of love / Share some treasure / Give a soft answer / Encourage youth / Manifest your loyalty in word and deed / Keep a promise / Find the time / Forego a grudge / Forgive an enemy / Listen / Apologize if you were wrong / Try to understand / Flout envy / Examine your demands on others / Think first of someone else / Appreciate / Be kind; be gentle / Laugh a little / Laugh a little more / Express your gratitude / Go to church / Welcome a stranger / Gladden the heart of a child / Speak your love / Speak it again / Speak it yet once again.—
Anonymous

DEACON'S BENCH

By Deacon Helen M. Orlando

Special Events -- News You Can Use from St. Peter's International Outreach Team

Slideshow and Conversation about Haiti, February 24 & 25:

The weekend of February 24 and 25, Sue Legnani and Deacon Helen will offer a slide show developed from their 2016 trip to Haiti and Redemption School, share their experiences while there, and open the floor for questions and conversation. The slide show and conversation will be offered following all weekend services, including the Saturday, 5pm service. Please join us!

Friendly's FUNRaiser, Tuesday, February 27 from 5pm-8pm.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this event. Whether you have dinner, an ice cream dessert, or both, Friendly's will donate 20% of the value of your check to help pay St. Peter's pledge to Redemption School, Haiti. Your support helps make sure that Redemption School's teachers are paid in full and on time. Bring your family, friends, Scout troop, sports team...the more the merrier. Important: In order for Friendly's to credit your meal or dessert order to St. Peter's, each individual (or group, if one person is paying for everyone in the group), must present the special flyer included in this newsletter. Please cut it out today and post it someplace where you won't forget it. Feel free to photocopy flyers for distribution to your friends.

We now offer both Acme and ShopRite Cards for your purchase and use.

We encourage you to develop the habit of using our Acme or Shoprite cards to do your regular weekly shopping. You incur no additional costs by using our cards in the place of cash, check or credit, but the students of Redemption School gain the assurance that school will continue because their teachers are paid. Cards are for sale in the narthex following all services. Denominations available are: \$20.00, \$50.00, and \$100.00.

Episcopal Relief & Development Weekend coming to St. Peter's soon! -

Watch your "This Week at St. Peter's" emails and weekly service bulletins for more information about this special event.

When Do I Bring in Blessed Palms?



A box is in the narthex to receive your blessed palms from last year or any previous year.

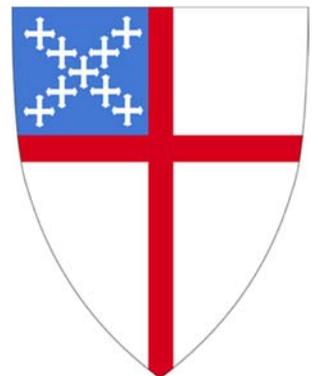
You may also give your palms to Deacon Helen or Lisa Miner, Parish Administrator.

We will be collecting palms until the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, February 11, after which they will be burned to ash for use on Ash Wednesday.

Thank you.

Symbolism of Episcopal Church Emblem

Officially adopted by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1940, the red cross of St. George, patron saint of England, symbolizes our connection with the Church of England and is one of the oldest symbols of Christianity. The St. Andrew's cross in outline on the azure field recognizes our debt to the Scottish Church for consecrating our first bishop, Samuel Seabury of Connecticut, at Aberdeen in 1784. The nine small crosses represent the nine original dioceses comprising the 1789 Convention in Philadelphia when the Constitution of the Episcopal Church was adopted and the first American Book of Common Prayer approved.



PARISH NEWS

Van Duzer and ECW Scholarships Applications Due March 1:

Van Duzer Scholarships offer assistance for recent high school graduates preparing to enter their first year of accredited post-secondary education. ECW scholarships are also available for seniors and college students. Application forms are now available in the narthex and must be postmarked no later than March 1.

Thank you:

A big thank you to all you helped with the Greening and Ungreening of the Church for Christmas! Steve and Leslie Haines, Joe Kelly, Scott Fallon, Mike Krug, Michelle, Stephen, Evan & Michael Scarpulla, Barb LaRue, Dan LaRue, Andrew LaRue, Don Powell, Bob Cullen, Lisa Miner, Beckie McCammitt, and Brandon Manni. Tree donated by Johnson's Farm, Anita Beard for the Memorial Chapel and of course, the Altar Guild.

A Heartfelt Thank You to the Parish -

St. Peter's staff members offer a heartfelt thank you for the Christmas bonuses made possible by your support and generosity. With or without your gifts, each one of us considers it an honor to serve you and sends you our blessings. Sincerely, Father Don, Deacon Helen, Lisa Miner, Sue Legnani, Danielle Colaianni, Brendan Moore and Mark Cantarella.

A Special Thank You:

For your prayers, wishes, meals and thoughts for Lynn and me during Lynn's surgery, hospitalization, and rehabilitation. Things are going well and we are hopeful she'll be back at her old self soon. Fr. Don

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

James Anthony Volpe, son of Matt and Jen Volpe, January 7, 2018

Zachary Kopsick, Albert and Erin Kopsick, January 28, 2018

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Frank C. Gregg, January 3, 2018

The Good Book Club



The Good Book Club is an invitation to all Episcopalians to join in reading the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts during Lent-Easter 2018.

Episcopalians will start reading Luke on Sunday, February 11 and read a section of Luke's Gospel every day through the season of Lent.

The entire season of Easter will be devoted to daily readings from the Book of Acts.

Already, individuals, congregations, and organizations are committed to being a part of the Good Book Club, and we hope you'll join the journey too!

The Good Book Club website (goodbookclub.org) lists the daily readings, as well as available resources to support people as they read the scriptures.

Resources also will be available in Spanish at ClubBiblico.org.

The list of readings will be also be available on the table in the Narthex.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex to let us know who is doing the Good Book Club.

You can also sign up to be part of a Sunday morning discussion group at 9 am led by our Candidate for the Diaconate Ken Carpinelli.

Maybe you want to start your own group, see Fr. Don for resources.

From the Vestry...

Budget 2018

This year is unique in that Father Don will be retiring at the end of June so we need to budget for an unknown 6 months. Two different budget proposals were presented to the Vestry: one for hiring an Interim Priest and the other for using Supply Priests from July through December.

Both proposals have advantages and disadvantages. Hiring an Interim Priest has the advantage that the Vestry will not have to be involved with day to day parish administration, as these duties are traditionally done by the Rector/Interim Priest. Pastoral care duties would continue to be split between the Interim Priest and Deacon Helen as it is now split between Father Don and Deacon Helen. An Interim Priest would be paid a salary as well as medical insurance and living expenses.

For the option of using Supply Priests, the biggest advantage is the reduced cost. Supply priests are paid by the service and mileage. The disadvantage for this option is that pastoral care will fall ultimately on Deacon Helen's shoulders, and the Vestry would have to become involved with day to day parish administration. The projected annual income for St. Peter's in 2018 is \$301,500.00 from all sources. The projected total yearly budget expenses for the Interim Priest option is \$321,432.70 with a deficit of \$19,932.70. The projected total yearly budget expenses for the Supply Priests option is \$282,807.20 with a surplus of \$18,692.80. This surplus would be earmarked to cover the existing deficit for 2016 and 2017.

Another notable point regarding the budget this year is the parish will be paying Hartford Power only for the months of January through April. After that St. Peter's will no longer pay for electricity generated by the solar panels. This is a savings of about \$11,000.00 this year and \$15,000.00 in subsequent years. The current compromise is to implement a six-month budget for January through June 2018. This gives the Vestry time to decide whether hiring an Interim Priest or using Supply Priests is in the best interests of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Hobson
Finance Chair

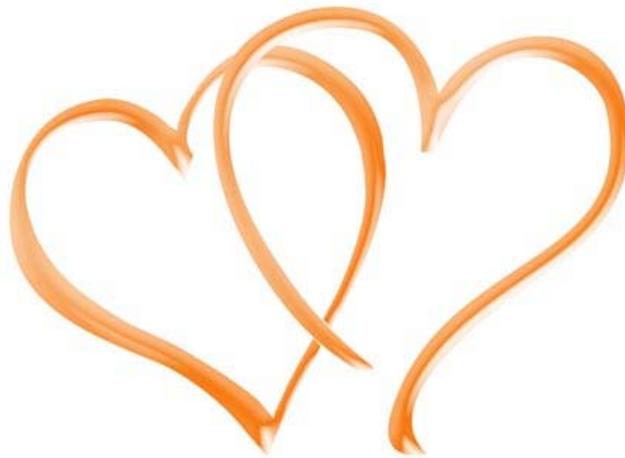
Renewal of Vows



Married couples: have you been looking for an opportunity to renew your wedding vows, but have been waiting for the perfect place and time?

St. Peter's Church at the 5 pm on February 10th, Valentine's Day Saturday service is that place and time.

At that service, St. Peter's will welcome all married couples wishing to re-affirm their commitment and love to each other in front of their families, friends, and neighbors.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—Tuesday, February 13th, 5:30-7 p.m.:

Once again, St. Peter's will host a traditional pancake supper of pancakes, sausage, applesauce and beverages.

Ticket prices:

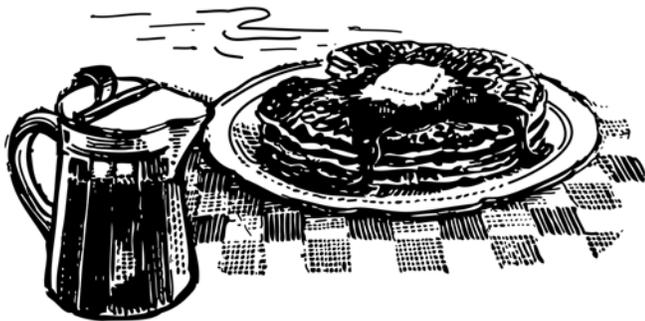
\$7 per adult

\$5 for seniors 62 and over

\$3 per child

Children under 2 are free

We look forward to seeing you!



A Prayer from the Rite 13 Class

Thank you God for your favor and all of our blessings you have bestowed upon us.

Thank you for our families, our education, our human rights, our church and our faith.

Thank you for our health and the ability to help and inspire others.

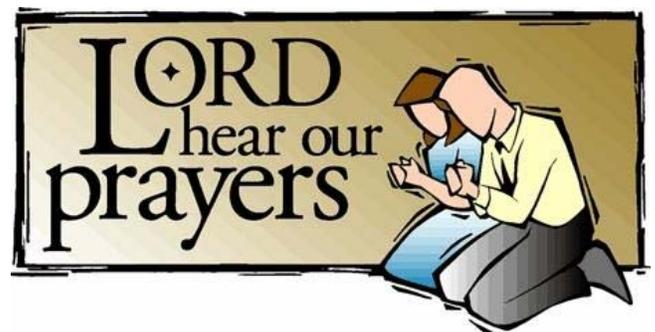
Please watch over those who are less fortunate than we are.

Thank you for teaching us right from wrong and guiding us to do what is right.

Thank you for giving us awareness for what is going on around us in the world and the desire and inspiration to help where we can.

Thank you God for everything you have done for us.

Please continue to watch over us and lead us in the right direction. In Jesus Name, we pray.
AMEN



Friendly's FunRaising Flyer

FUNraising at

Friendly's

St. Peter's International Outreach Team

Is Hosting a FUNRaising Event

at Friendly's on

Tuesday, February 27th from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

20% of all sales accompanied by this flyer will be donated to St. Peter's to support faculty salaries and develop a cafeteria for the students of Redemption School, Gonaives, Haiti.

Join Us at

Friendly's, 101 W. Route 70, Marlton, NJ

(Located in the ShopRite/Kohl's Shopping Center, across from Barnes and Noble)



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
Brad Moore, Organist Lisa Miner, Parish Administrator 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.

February 2018

<i>Lenten Study at St. Peter's 2018.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>From Pulpit to Pew.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Church & Home</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Body & Soul.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Deacon's Bench.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>When do I Bring in Blessed Palms?...</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Parish News.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>The Good Book Club.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Renewal of Vows</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>St. Peter's FunRaising Flyer.....</i>	<i>11</i>

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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Contains Dated Material