



News from Redemption School

On October 30, 2017, St. Peter's completed its 2017 pledge to Redemption School by wiring \$1,467.00 to the Haiti Partnership Program. Along with our pledge payment, we included an additional \$1,315.00 raised by Church of the Resurrection, Bridgeton. Your IOT (International Outreach Team) happily announces that the combined gifts of our two churches have made it possible for Father Diegue both to pay Redemption's teachers in full through the end of the year and to begin work on another his long-term goals: to develop a cafeteria in which students can eat their meals.

Below is Father Diegue's email of December 7, 2017, thanking both churches for our offerings:

Hello Deacon Helen Orlando,

I greet you cordially in Christ. This note is to announce you that I removed the check from the diocesan office of the Episcopal Church of Haiti. The amount is USD 2568.60.

I thank you sincerely and ask you to convey our thanks to the Church of the Resurrection, Bridgeton in New Jersey. Part of this amount will complete the salary for the month of December 2017 and the rest will help the restoration of the Cafeteria of the Redemption Institution.

I wish you a holy season of Advent.

In Christ,

Fr. Diegue



January Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

- Jan. 1 The Holy Name, Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.
- Jan. 10 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 14 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.
- Jan. 14 Youth Group
- Jan. 28 Finance Meeting, Williams Hall, 9:00 a.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

The Book of Occasional Services (BOS) is one of the extra liturgical books in the Episcopal Church. It contains many seasonal Services like “Stations of the Cross”, “Blessing at the Christmas Creche”, and much more. One of my favorites, rarely used, is a “Service for New Year’s Eve.” It includes Readings and Collects (Prayers), Canticles, The Service of Light. The Collects are very interesting, one such is the Collect for “A Season for all Things” which is an appropriate prayer for all of us as we begin a new year: *In your wisdom, O Lord our God, you have made all things, and have allotted to each of us the days of our life: Grant that we may live in your presence, be guided by your Holy Spirit, and offer all our works to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

There will be some changes coming our way this year, but if we live with faith into this prayer, God will guide us, uphold us, and lead us. This will give us hope for a new day and perhaps new expressions of our mission and ministry through St. Peter’s.

Many will be called upon to take on new ministries, serve on various committees, help birth a new future for this parish. I hope and pray that all of you will pray about your commitment to God through St. Peter’s in time, talent, and treasure.

Another of the Services in the BOS is the “Blessing of Homes at Epiphany”. Epiphany is January 6, so any time that week would be appropriate to invite me to “Bless” your home. It’s a short Service and includes the Collect for Epiphany, a blessing of the family (household), and this prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence, Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love (to each other and) to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

Telephone the parish office (609-654-2963) to schedule your “house blessing”.

Faithfully,

Fr. Don

Church & Home

By Sue Legnani

Follow That Star!

January 6th is the first day of Epiphany. This season seems to be a pass through from Christmas to Lent and it feels like it's overlooked. But I think it's a shame to ignore this season of the Church Year. After all, most of us feel a let down after all of the hustle and bustle of Christmas, and Epiphany gives us a chance to carry on the celebration just a little longer until Lent arrives. In fact in some cultures it's called "little Christmas" and gifts are given on the day of Epiphany by the Three Kings who arrive on horse back. A very long time ago Christmas wasn't really celebrated at all and Epiphany was the big day of celebration.

During the season of Epiphany we remember and recognize Jesus as God by many people in our Sunday readings: the magi, John the Baptist, Jesus' disciples, and Christians in many ages, including our own. It is a time for rededicating ourselves to our own ministries and our missionary task – to continue the spread of Jesus' light in the world.

How can we help our children to understand Epiphany? Here are some ideas offered by Sharon Pearson in her article about Epiphany on the website *Building Faith*.

- On the night of Jesus' birth, the giant comet star let the world know that God is with us, magi from far away saw the star and journeyed to visit Jesus.
- Jesus called his friends to be with him and help him in his work.
- Jesus did and said amazing things that no one else could do. He healed many people to show them how much God loved them.
- Jesus, the gift of love, came for all people of the world.
- Jesus is like a light, helping us to see better.
- We are part of Jesus, and in Jesus we are baptized into God's family, the church.

The wonder and mystery of the magi invite us to wonder about the mystery: Jesus who are you really?

In addition you could read the story of the magi in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 2: 1-12) and celebrate with a Three Kings party on January 6th by pretending to be the magi and share 3 Kings Cake. You could even go outside and look at the stars and wonder about those three magi who decided to follow that big, bright star half way around the world.

Whatever you do, have a blessed Epiphany!

Collect for Epiphany

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth; Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

So, by the time you get this Christmas will be over or all most over. Epiphany is coming, and it's also time for us to put away the Christmas decorations, put the tree out for recycling or if artificial, put it in hibernation until next year when we do it all again. I love to look at the lights those with energy have put outside their homes. I like to drive in the neighborhoods to look at them in wonder.

Epiphany is also the 12th day of Christmas; remember the song about all the gifts given on each of the twelve days? We don't celebrate Epiphany much in our culture but some people in other cultures do.

In some countries epiphany is a day of gift giving. In France it is celebrated with a "Fete de la Feve," (bean festival) along with a cake, "La Galette du rois", (Kings Cake) which has a bean hidden in it. Whoever finds it is "King of the Bean." In England there is a custom which includes a Twelfth Day Cake. Another English custom is the eating of 'lobscouse' (beef, potatoes and onions) fried together and the drinking of 'ponsondie', similar to the lamb's wool of wassailers. In Norway, Christmas is 'swept out' with 'Star boys' singing and performing Biblical dramas in processions about the towns and by sweeping away gnomes and spirits and the last remnants of Christmas. They burn greens on twelfth night to bring good luck.

No matter how you celebrate Epiphany remember its beginning: the day the Wise Men visited Jesus in Bethlehem. In the visit of the Wise Men He was manifested as King of the Gentiles. (Matthew 2) The baptism of Jesus in which Jesus' sonship to God was manifested to the world. (Mark 1) The miracle at Cana where His power to perform miracles was shown. (John 2) To all of you, I wish you very happy, healthy 2018. And while you take down those decorations that you feel as if you had just put up, get in touch with the real meaning of Epiphany.

And finally: If there had been three Wise Women instead--- they would have arrived early, prepared for the birth and made a nice casserole to celebrate the birth.

Dates to Remember

January 21: It's Flip Flop Sunday and at 9:00 am we have the family service in the chapel and Sunday School to follow at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome, but it's designed for children in grade six and under.

Rite 13 and J2A will meet in their respective rooms at the usual time of 9:00 AM.

2018 Van Duzer Scholarship

This scholarship is for seniors graduating high school and entering their first year of college. All applications must be submitted electronically by April 1, 2018. Paper applications will not be accepted.

You can find the link to apply at www.dioceseofnj.org or www.newjerseyyouth.org.

If you have any questions, contact The Rev. Canon Debi Clarke at dclarke@dioceseofnj.org or 609-394-5281 ext. 36.



Mark
Your
Calendar

DEACON'S BENCH

By Deacon Helen M. Orlando

“Slow Down. Quiet. Listen.”

Most of you know that I am not a person who is good at taking it slow and easy. This past Friday (during the week after the 1st Sunday in Advent) was an especially harried day, even for me. After straightening the house, preparing breakfast, eating with the family, cleaning up the kitchen, starting a load of laundry, and reading and responding to a lot of emails, I rushed to St. Peter's for a meeting with Father Don. After that somewhat hurried meeting, I jumped into my car and zoomed home to pick up my mother-in-law, Jessie, for her weekly shampoo and set in Haddonfield. Having skipped lunch, I was starving by the time I dropped her off, so drove to a nearby McDonald's for a quick lunch. Still nursing my cup of coffee, I got back into my car just in time to return to the hairdressers to pick up “mom.”

And...my car engine would not turn over. Once again, my car battery would not charge, despite the fact that the dealership had finally repaired the car after three tries, or so we thought.

So, I grabbed my cell phone and called my husband, Mike, asking him to drive to Haddonfield as quickly as possible to pick up “mom” and to then drive to Westmont to jump my battery. Then, I called the hair salon, telling them that mom's son would be picking her up half an hour late. Having completed those tasks, I suddenly realized that I had no idea what to do with myself during the forty-five minute wait facing me, other than to bemoan the time I was losing during an already jam-packed day and to feel sorry for my poor overworked, overscheduled self. Aargh!

About ten minutes into my forced captivity in the parking lot, a parishioner called me on my cell phone. Although I would have had to delay responding had my day gone as planned, I found that I suddenly had plenty of time to listen to and talk with her. We had a good conversation for about twenty minutes. By the time our conversation ended, I found that I had truly relaxed for perhaps the first time in several days and that I had forgotten to feel sorry for myself. In fact, I found myself feeling grateful to God for providing me with unexpected time to slow down and give time to another.

“Slow Down. Quiet. It's Advent” is the title of an annual Advent calendar drawn by Episcopal priest, Jay Sidebotham, and distributed by Forward Movement. I'm convinced that those words were precisely the words that God wanted me to hear as I prepared to grin and bear it in the McDonald's parking lot. I heard them – and I experienced the value of slowing down to hear God and others.

As we are now celebrating the birth of our Lord at Christmas, “Slow Down. Quiet. It's Advent” is not an appropriate title for this story. But God teaches that the quietness that allows us to hear God's voice and the voices of God's children who surround us is a necessary part of the Christian life at all times. So, I end my story with the following words, which I believe God speaks not only to me but to all of us:

“Slow Down.” “Quiet.” “Listen to me and love my children.”

God's peace to you all,

Deacon Helen

Calling all Acme shoppers...



Beginning the weekend of January 6th and 7th, 2018, your International Outreach Team will offer both ShopRite Cards and Acme Market Cards for sale.

As with the ShopRite cards, St. Peter's will receive 5% of the value of each Acme Card sold. Cards do not expire and can be used to the last penny.

It costs you nothing to support the ministry of Redemption School, Haiti every time you shop and means it means so much to Redemption's students.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR...

St. Peter's FUNRaising Event at



101 West Route 70, Marlton, NJ 08053

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 from 5:00-8:00 pm

20% of all sales benefit Redemption School, Haiti.

PARISH NEWS

Thank you....to Stephen Haines and his family and all the volunteers for Greening the Church for Christmas.

Understanding the Book of Revelation—9:00 AM Sundays January 7, 14, February 4, 11 Moore Chapel

"The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God's message in this peculiar part of the Bible? Breaking the Code provides a trustworthy guide to the rich symbolism of this important biblical book. Noted biblical scholar Bruce M. Metzger presents the fruits of solid scholarship in a nonacademic style. Breaking the Code serves as a key for understanding this powerful and puzzling book from the first century of the Christian Era."

Dates:

January 7: Revelation 1:1-3:22

January 14: Revelation 4:1-8:4

February 4: Revelation 8:5-14:20

February 11: Revelation 15:1-22:21

2017 Giving Tree transformed to a Jesse Tree



Over 100 gifts were
you all!

collected! Thank

THE UTO: WHATS NEW IN 2018

By Abigail Floyd



BLUE BOXES are now available in the pews and narthex!

Patented in 1891, the BLUE BOX is at the heart of the UTO's mission and was first used to collect offerings of thanks in 1889 by the women of The Episcopal Church. It is now the symbol of the UTO. The money was used to build a church in Anvic, Alaska!

By keeping a BLUE BOX in our home we are encouraged to nurture the habit of giving thanks daily for our blessings and placing coins in the box.

When full, simply place in the offering. All of the money collected is used to provide grants to support projects for the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. It is the largest granting mechanism in the Church.

It is the goal of the United Thank Offering Committee to have a BLUE BOX in every home fostering the practice of gratitude and carrying on the legacy started by Julia Emery in 1889.

Abby Floyd

S.O.A.R. Special Event

Coming to a church near you!!!

Special event: A DEA agent will do a presentation on the Opioid crisis in the country. This will take place in William's Hall on January 9th at 7PM. It will last an hour or so depending upon any questions you might have.

This presentation will take the place of our every other month S.O.A.R. meetings usually held at 1PM. The time was changed to accommodate those who aren't able to attend during the day, especially those with teenagers and young adults.

We hope to see you there, don't miss this great opportunity!

Mark
your
Calendar

Annual Finance Meeting



Annual Finance Meeting

January 28 at 9 a.m.

This official meeting is being held in order to inform parishioners of our current financial status and proposed 2018 budget.

Watch your bulletins for further information and plan to attend this important meeting



PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



Top Left, Mid-Left, Mid-right, and Bottom Right: pictures from the annual Christmas Pageant at St. Peter's.

Photos Courtesy of: Tiffany Myers, and Dave Lusk.



Christmas Pageant Photos



*Photos Courtesy of: Tiffany Myers,
and Dave Lusk.*

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 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.

January 2018

<i>News From Redemption School</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>Calling All Shoppers... ..</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Parish News.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>UTO: What's New in 2018</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Annual Finance Meeting.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Parish Photo Album.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Christmas Pageant Photos.....</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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #81
Vincentown, NJ

Contains Dated Material