



Congregational Conversations

What will our next Priest-in-Charge be like?

As part of the process of discernment towards calling a new Priest-in-Charge for St. Peter's, we will hold congregational conversations that will enable every voice in the congregation to be heard as we develop our Office of Transition Ministry Community Profile.

This is your opportunity to contribute to that profile. Light refreshments will be served.

At 3:30 pm on Saturday, September 8, 2018 or At 8:45 am on Sunday, September 9, 2018

Please Join in the Conversation!



September Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

- Sept. 3 Church Office closed
- Sept. 8 Congregational Conversations, 3:30 p.m.
- Sept. 9 Sunday School Begins, 9:00 a.m.
- Sept. 9 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.
- Sept. 9 Congregational Conversations, 8:45 a.m.
- Sept. 12 Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 30 Annual Meeting following 10:15 service

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

By Michelle Scarpulla

Dear Friends in Christ,

I will be using this space in the newsletter to keep you informed during our transition, until our new priest is with us at St. Peter's and can take over writing the "From Pulpit to Pew" column. The transition process is a long and arduous journey! There are many steps in the process to finding a new priest. Jennifer Buzby and I, the wardens, along with the vestry have been working on accomplishing these steps since the beginning of the year. So far, we have done the following:

- The vestry met with Bishop Chip Stokes and Canon Brian Jemmott, Transitions Officer for our initial meeting.
- The discernment (search) committee was chosen and commissioned.
- The vestry met with Canon Phyllis Jones, Chief Operating Officer for the diocese for our "readiness assessment."
- The vestry and the discernment committee, as well as other parishioners, attended the Anti-Racism Training, a requirement for any parish who is calling a new priest.
- A town hall meeting was held at St. Peter's, led by Bishop Stokes, Canon Rob Droste and Canon Connie White, so that we could hear about the "missional church".
- An assessment of the rectory was performed and a "to-do" list created to ensure the rectory is ready for a new priest.
- Supply priests were secured for the remainder of 2018 for all weekend services.
- A consultant was assigned by the diocese to assist us through this transition process. His name is Father Jeffrey Kirk.
- The vestry and the discernment committee had their orientation meeting with Father Kirk.
- Jim Beard put together an outstanding start to our parish profile which will be posted online to attract applicants.

The vestry has continued to meet monthly to ensure the smooth operation of St. Peter's and continue to minister to our parish.

Our next step in the process is to hold the Congregational Conversations on September 8th at 3:30 pm and September 9th at 8:45 am. These conversations will be highly structured and designed to get your input as to who St. Peter's needs as our priest-in-charge to take us into the future. I do hope you will attend one of these sessions. Once this is done, the information gathered will be used to complete our parish profile so that it can be posted online and we can begin to accept applications.

Another important date for you to mark on your calendars is the Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, September 30th at 9:00 am. I do hope you will join us then, as well!

Please remember to check out the bulletin board in Williams Hall which has a visual representation of the transition process. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or any member of the vestry. And please remember to pray for the vestry, discernment committee and all of us at St. Peter's!

In Christ,
Michelle Scarpulla, Junior Warden

Church & Home

By Sue Legnani

The mission statement of St. Peter's parish states: "The mission of St. Peter's Church includes following Christ through study. In fulfilling this part of our mission, we seek to provide quality Christian Formation programs for all ages."

Specifically, the mission statement of the Christian Education Council (CEC) is as follows: "Our goal is to create a loving and caring environment in which people of all ages come to know Jesus Christ and to enter into a personal relationship with the Lord. This relationship is encouraged to grow by teaching each adult, child and youth the meaning of being a disciple of Christ and the ways in which He empowers us to minister to others in our daily lives."

When we bring children to be Baptized, parents and Godparents answer questions that include:
Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

And to each question you have answered, "I will with God's help." (I wish there was an exclamation point there.) It goes without saying that these promises cannot be kept if adults and children are not present in church to worship, receive the sacraments and learn together.

Like most parishes, St. Peter's offers many opportunities each week to do this. Sunday School will begin on September 9th at 9:00 am, however we would appreciate it if you would come a little early to register your child and introduce yourself to his/her teacher. There are classes for children as young as 3 years old through High School.

Here is what you can expect in the Christian Formation program this year:

Pre- Kindergarten – Kindergarten: Godly Play is taught at this level and invites children to wonder about themselves, God, and the world in a way that is playful and meaningful. They will be exposed to Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments as well as Seasons of the Church Year and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

First to Sixth Grade: Weaving God's Promises is a three-year Christian Education program that will be used in the first to sixth grade classes. The curriculum was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. It's titled Weaving God's Promises after the process of faith formation in which we learn how God's promises of salvation are inextricably woven into our lives.

This year we will begin with saints of the church culminating in a celebration of saints on All Saint's Sunday, November 4th.

Cont. on Page 4.

Church & Home, cont.

Cont. from Page 3

Christian Formation for Youth:

Journey to Adulthood (J2A) is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th - 12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its core principles:

- 1) Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God.
- 2) Adulthood must be earned.

There are three two-year segments of the program:

Rite-13: The first two years (6th-7th and 7th-8th graders) focus on celebrating the individuality of each young person and their creative potential.

J2A: The middle portion of the program (8th-9th and 9th-10th graders), engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. Since this group was Confirmed in the Spring the class will continue its second year without this as its culmination.

Other youth activities include those provided by our Diocese of New Jersey and St. Peter's Destination Unknown monthly surprise outing to an "unknown destination" that includes clues from the Bible and some spiritual reflection on the place they go to.

Many other opportunities will be available during the year for Intergenerational programs and study opportunities for adults.

Please watch the St. Peter's website and the Newsletter for more information the year goes on. As we start another year of Christian Formation at St. Peter's we invite you, your family and friends to join together to keep those Baptismal promises made for us and for our children.

Sue Legnani,
Director of Christian Formation

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

I think this is the first time in this column that I've mentioned politics. A touchy subject these days. Everything seems to be a little or a lot crazy with all the tweets and news coming from the white house. A lot of finger pointing, a lot of blame going around to almost everyone from the media to the congress to the staff at the white house.

Some of you are staunch Trump supporters and others of you think he should be run out of town on a rail. And that's okay, the American way. We can support whomever we choose. The only thing that has me concerned is somewhere we've lost the kindness, the tolerance we have for others who feel differently than we do. And I'm not blaming anyone for this. Why is it so difficult to listen to different points of view, and though we might not agree, be tolerant and agree to disagree?

Is name calling promoting a kinder America? Is getting angry with someone who disagrees with us doing anything to promote our sense of how America is supposed to be; tolerant, kind and promoting peace?

There once was a man who was benevolent toward others even though they called him names, who persecuted him because he had a message they didn't like. He preached things that some folks didn't want to hear. They ended up killing him. As you know, I'm talking about Jesus, God's son. Wonder what he thinks about our behaviors in our world today? I think God is looking at us with dismay and sadness at some of our intolerances toward others. After all, he made us all with brains to decide for ourselves what to think and how to feel.

Perhaps as someone on TV said: Instead of MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, how about MAKE AMERICA KIND AGAIN.

And Finally: Remember, every big change in the world begins with YOU.

From Our Diocese

16th ANNUAL BATTLE AGAINST HUNGER BIKE RIDE

September 14-16, 2018

Over the 15 years of its existence, the Battle against Hunger Bike Ride has raised a total of over \$1,060,000.00 to fight hunger in NJ & PA. 100% of donations go directly to Battle against Hunger-supported charities.

For more information or to volunteer, ride, or donate, go to:

www.battleagainsthunger.org

SOLES FOR THE HARVEST 5K & Fun Run

Saturday November 3, 2018

Veterans Park, Hamilton Township, New Jersey (a USATF Certified Course)

Race proceeds will benefit programs dedicated to alleviating hunger in NJ.

Questions? Contact the Race Director at solesfortheharvest@gmail.com

To register, go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/HamiltonTownship/SolesfortheHarvest5K>

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Led by the Rev. Canon Jayne J. Oasin

October 6, 2018 from 10am-4pm

Christ Episcopal Church, 500 4th St., Riverton, NJ 08077

\$10.00 donation suggested, includes lunch

Register by Monday, October 1 at

<https://tinyurl.com/ECW@10062018> or call Mary Ann Clisham at 609-394-5281, x10.

Join us for this one-day retreat to pray with and form bonds with our sisters. We will walk the paths set by our foremothers Mary and Elizabeth, women of the Hebrew Scriptures, and mystics such as Hildegard, Julian, Theresa, and Catherine. No matter your age or background, you will find something to take away as we pause for this day of prayer together.

DEACON'S BENCH

By Deacon Helen M. Orlando

An Invitation to Join St. Peter's Prayer Vine

Each day, twelve members of St. Peter's set aside time to pray by name for the many on our Intercessory Prayer List who have requested prayer for physical, emotional or spiritual healing or protection. Known as "St. Peter's Prayer Vine," these eleven bring the needs of others before God, trusting that God will act for good in the lives of each person for whom they pray. Is God calling you to join them?

Ask yourself these questions:

Do you have an ear for the needs of others?

Do you believe that God wants us to pray for others, listens to our prayers, and acts in response to our prayer?

Do you trust God to act for the good of the person(s) for whom you pray, even when God's response to your prayer may not be the response you (thought) you were seeking?

Can you be persistent in prayer...or are you willing to try?

Are you willing to respect the privacy of those for whom you pray?

If this is you, we invite you to join St. Peter's Prayer Vine.

How does it work?

Please contact Deacon Helen (at church, via email: dcnhelen@stpetersmedford.org, or by phone: 609-238-0593 if you are interested in becoming a member of the Prayer Vine. Should you do so, you will receive regular emails (or phone calls, if you do not use email) to notify you of new prayer requests and to update with any news we receive about those for whom we are praying. The information included in prayer requests is confidential to members of the Prayer Vine and should not be discussed with others.

Once a month, the prayer list is updated and Deacon Helen will send you a complete, updated listing of prayer requests.

For more information, please feel welcome to contact Deacon Helen or speak with any of our current Prayer Vine members. We welcome you to join us in prayer!

Current Prayer Vine members are: Hille Baldyga, Anita Beard, Cindy Dinoto, Helen Green, Alison Gregory, Doris Heintz, Barbara Kelly, Rose Johnston, Pat Lusk, Sue Santangelo, Susie Van Emburgh, Deacon Helen

Praying with you...

Deacon Helen

From the Vestry

By Andrew LaRue

Throughout the recent years we've all experienced change. Some of that change has been good and some of that change has been bad. The children are going back to school and the teachers are going back to work, some have moved away and some have newly arrived, some have retired from a long career and some have started anew after a long hiatus and some have experienced a loss while others have welcomed a new addition. Saint Peter's, like all of us on their life's journey is experiencing change.

With change comes opportunities. We are venturing down the road to find a new rector to lead our church and we as a parish are called to find a new path for our future. We must prepare for our journey. Highlighting all the wonderful things we do here is the best way to prepare. Planning ahead in this preparation will allow for more opportunities to present themselves.

Using our time, talent, and treasure to its fullest potential is the best way for St. Peter's to find the right candidate for a rector and to keep us on a solid foundation. We devote to our parish in many ways.

Some by being part of the choir, being on the Alter Guild, being on the Discernment Committee, volunteering for church clean up days, teaching Sunday school, being on the Vestry and many more. We have many people in our parish who plan, assist and attend church sponsored activities like the Father Moore Memorial Golf Outing, Designer Bag Bingo, and the Pallet Painting. We also have many individuals who share their professional knowledge to assist the church in its needs. We devote much of our time to fruitful outreach endeavors that help those both here and abroad and we offer an active Sunday school and youth activities.

Our parish is also special because it has a rectory and keeps our spiritual leader close to our home. A rectory gives St. Peter's opportunities to offer something that other parishes cannot give, which makes us more desirable to a potential candidate. Keeping the rectory updated gives the parish opportunities for both its financial and spiritual wellbeing.

Having Saint Peter's in good order in regards to its mission, attendance, facilities, and finances will bring out the best candidates for rector and bring out our best as a parish.

This year Consecration Weekend will be the weekend of October 13-14, 2018. We have moved up the date for us to have the best impact for the goals and to plan for the upcoming year of 2019. By having a successful stewardship campaign, we are creating more opportunities for our parish to grow and find the best candidate for a rector.

PARISH NEWS

Annual Meeting - September 30, 11:15 am Family Brunch - 11:30 am Annual Parish Meeting

International Day of Peace Celebration - Sunday, September 23, 2018, 3-5pm

Memorial Hall of Protestant Community Church (Cathedral in the Woods), 100 Stokes Rd., Medford Lakes, NJ 08055 - In observance of the International Day of Peace, the Protestant Community Church in Medford Lakes has organized a moderated panel discussion including leaders from the Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh, and Quaker religions. There will be ample time for audience participation following the panel discussion – a unique opportunity to have your questions answered by the experts – and snacks will be provided. Interested? Please RSVP to Kathy Roberts at kkroberts120@comcast.net or 1-609-744-9979. Accessibility Notice: Although Memorial Hall is “ramped” for easy access, the accessible bathrooms are nearby, across the street from the library.

Stay in the know with “remind” - Do you want to receive reminders about events for St. Peter’s Sunday School or if there is bad weather and we have to cancel classes? Please join “remind” so you can receive these messages. Text to 81010 or (609) 269-2654 and enter the message @stpetersme. If you would rather receive emails, email to stpetersme@mail.remind.com. You can leave the subject blank.

Wednesday Bible Study - The Wednesday Bible Study that meets at 11 am in the library will start up again on September 19th. This year we will be reading through the book Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. This book walks us through the books of the Bible to find all of the women who speaks in the Bible, providing their words, context, and historical background. We will find out who speaks the most and also the least. In the end we will join with the mothers, grandmothers, warriors, prophets, prostitutes, and murderers. We are promised that we won’t come out the same! This book is available in the parish office for the cost of \$20.00.

Congregational Conversations - What will our next Priest-in-Charge be like? As part of the process of discernment towards calling a new Priest-in-Charge for St. Peter’s, we will hold congregational conversations that will enable every voice in the congregation to be heard as we develop our Office of Transition Ministry Community Profile. This is your opportunity to contribute to that profile. Light refreshments will be served. Dates: Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. | Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 8:45 a.m. Please Join in the Conversation!

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

None

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



*Top Left & Bottom Right:
VBS S.P.Y.*



VBS Pictures

Photo Challenge 1:

God makes things
grow from seeds



Top: VBS Photo Challenge 1: "God Makes Things Grow"

Bottom: VBS Challenge 2: "The Kingdom of God is Valuable"

Photo Challenge 2:

The Kingdom
Of God
Is Valuable



VBS Pictures, cont.



Top Left: VBS Challenge Day 3: "God lives in us: How do you make Jesus smile?"

Photos Courtesy of VBS Participants.

Collages Courtesy of Tiffany Myers

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

One Hartford Road, Medford, NJ 08055
The Rev. Canon Ronald Albury, Associate Priest
The Rev. Helen M. Orlando, Deacon

Brendan Moore, Organist Lisa Minerd, 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.

September 2018

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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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