



J2A Retreat in Stone Harbor

St. Peter's Journey to Adulthood (J2A) class had a great retreat January 16-17, with lots of smiles, card playing during breaks and covered three chapters from My Faith My Life which is the additional material we took on for this class in preparation for confirmation.

Our hearty thanks to Pat and Krissy Lusk for cooking us a send off Chili dinner Friday night, to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Stone Harbor, NJ for allowing us use of their facility and keeping us quite warm and comfortable! And special thanks to Janice and Bill Haines, who stocked the freezer at St. Mary's with ice cream and pretzels for us when we learned Springer's Ice Cream was closed until spring!

The retreat format worked wonderfully and we were fortunate to have good weather (sunshine and no snow:)) and good attendance by taking advantage of Friday to Saturday of the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend. The stars from the beach on Friday night were magnificent. A few brave souls ran into the cold surf up to their ankles midday on Saturday. We worshiped God in Compline, Morning Prayer and Noonday Prayer; which was exceptional in that we had use of both the Sanctuary and Chapel at St. Mary's! In My Faith, My Life we studied: 1) Spirituality: Created for Prayer, 2) Sacraments: Signs of Grace and 3) The Mission of God: What's Your Ministry. The class is on the home stretch of a two year preparation for confirmation. If you join us for Bishop Stoke's visit on May 31, 2015; you will witness the confirmation of eight magnificent Episcopalians!



Pictured above: Mandy Keen (J2A leader), Jordan Brown, Mekenzie Montgomery, Grace Castiglia, Jack Free, Logan Worsdell, Joey Moore, Brady Moore and Dave Lusk (J2A leader). *Photo courtesy of Leslie Haines*

February Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

- Feb. 8 St. Paul's Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.
- Feb. 11 Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Holy Eucharist and Renewal of Marriage Vows with spaghetti dinner, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 16 Office closed in observance of President's Day
- Feb. 17 Pancake Supper, 5:30
- Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday, 10 am, 6 pm, 7:30 pm
- Feb. 23 Caps & Laps, 1:00 p.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

A number of years ago, the Church of which I was Rector, needed a new roof. I learned some things then. You could put a second set of shingles on top of the old ones, but you should only do that once. This was a less costly process than removing the old shingles and replacing them, but it wasn't the best solution. We bit the bullet, removed the old roof, found we needed some repairs underneath the shingles, and put on the new roof.

I think of that as a metaphor for our spiritual lives and the season of Lent. We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 18 this year) in repentance, receiving ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our repentance. In our Anglican/Episcopal tradition the receiving of ashes is connected to our repentance. You will be receiving this newsletter a couple of weeks before Ash Wednesday, I want to encourage you to do several things:

- 1) Plan on attending one of our Ash Wednesday Services (10:00 am; 6:00 pm; or 7:30 pm) or another parish with Services that fit your schedule;
- 2) Confess your sins (remove the old roof) before you put on new spiritual practices;
- 3) Plan out your Lent now "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

St. Peter's has many opportunities for you to do the above:

- . Morning Prayer in Moore Chapel at 9:00 am Monday-Friday
- . Evening Prayer in Moore Chapel at 7:00 pm Monday-Thursday
- . Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7:00 pm on Fridays
- . Healing Eucharist on Wednesday at 10:00 am
- . Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew at 11:00 am on Wednesday
- . Soup and Study on Thursday evenings beginning with soup at 6:30 pm and study at 7:00 pm
- . Weekend Worship on Saturday at 5:00 pm; Sunday at 7:45 am and 10:15 am
- . What's God Up To - in My Life, - In My Church, - In My Neighborhood, - In The World on Sunday at 9:00 am

Watch for more details about these offerings in the coming weeks.

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature.

In Christ,

Fr. Don

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

Lent begins this month and frankly I'm not sure I'm ready for it. I'm still looking at Christmas china that I haven't put away. Lent also means that I should be looking at how my relationship with God and Jesus is getting along.

I had a spiritual director a few years back who always began our sessions with: "So, how are you and God?" It was a question that I looked forward to and dreaded at the same time. There was no correct answer to that question, but I always wanted to sound like we were getting along swimmingly. Sometimes the answer was that I felt like I was falling down on my end. Other times things felt better, more secure. The thing that often stood in the way was the dissatisfaction I felt about something in my life that I wanted God to fix.

In a meditation from Forward Movement's *Meeting God Day by Day*, I read the following by Charles LaFond:

"Dissatisfaction is a universal ache but a decidedly American cancer, the way malaria is a problem in certain parts of the world.

"I am the Resurrection" says Jesus. Jesus never complained in those final days. He asked questions, but he never complained. It is one of the things my Buddhist friends most admire about my savior, the God in whose image I say I am made. And it reminds me that we Christians are being watched by the next generations who have the power to defund and demoralize the church. Will they?"

With this in mind I have decided to put aside my embarrassment about my sometimes weak relationship with God and use this Lent to work again to strengthen it. I will probably still complain to Him from time to time, but I know that others are watching what I do and I will strive to live so the world can know I am a Christian...complaints and all.

Some things to do during Lent:

Eucharist Instruction for Grades 1-3 during Lent: During the six weeks of Lent the children in Grades 1-3 will participate in a Eucharist Instruction program designed by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. They will start with the sacrament of Baptism and then learn about the different parts of the Communion service. The class will have the opportunity to visit the Sacristy where the Altar Guild does their work, see and learn the names of the parts of the church, and the names of the vessels and vestments used at each Communion service. At the end of the program they will make their own mini Altars. More information will be given at a parent meeting on Sunday, February 1 at 9:45 in the Chapel.

Daily meditations from The Society of St. John the Evangelist: You can receive a daily meditation from the Brothers by signing up at www.ssje.org. This is something you can read on your computer, tablet or smartphone every day, at your convenience. Now that I've joined the 21st Century, I can read the daily meditation on my smartphone each day and I look forward to connecting with the Brothers this way.

Lent Madness is back! Join the saintly smackdown this Lent as you follow the biographies of 32 saints of the church and vote each day for your favorite saint. Just like March Madness in basketball, one saint will be eliminated each day and the winners will be re-matched until one saint will win the Golden Halo. Last year's winner was Charles Wesley. Who will win this year? You can help decide by following this year's match up and voting each day. Sign up at www.lentmadness.org and may the best saint win! It really is a great way to learn about saints you never heard of, and this exercise is actually a great devotional.

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

Of all the stories in the Bible, the one that I am most intrigued about is when Jesus walked by Andrew, Peter, James and John who were fishing and He told them to follow him and THEY DID. Now these guys weren't just taking an afternoon off from their jobs to have a bit of fun fishing for trout or bass and hoisting a few beers. Fishing WAS their job!!

Some had families. Yet, according to the gospels, they dropped their nets, no questions asked, and followed Him. I'm wondering if they asked where they were going, did they say they had to stop at home and grab some extra clothing. Did they ask how their families would survive if they were no longer there? Perhaps they took their families with them. We'll never know, we only know that they followed Him.

Back on 9/11, a terrible tragedy occurred in NYC and other places. We all remember the shock and anger we felt. How dare they do this to US! In the aftermath, help was needed. Medical personnel as well as others were needed. Now, I could have gone. I have a New York nursing license, I have no young children to worry about. It wouldn't have been that hard for me to drop my life and go. But, I didn't. Why? Why didn't I respond to that call?

I can't give you an answer because I really don't know. Was I too comfortable in my little world that I didn't want the interruption? Did I think I wouldn't be much help anyway and besides, others were going so I didn't have to?

How many other times has help been needed which would require a bit of inconvenience for us and we don't respond. Why? Perhaps we think someone else will help or we think we really don't have the time because, after all, we have a schedule of things in our own lives that need to be done.

Perhaps next time a need arises and asks for your help, be it St. Peter's or other community endeavors, instead of immediately saying, "No, I couldn't possibly," you'll really think about giving a bit of your time and life to the need.

Designer Bag Bingo

SAVE THE DATE

DESIGNER BAG BINGO

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm

\$30 ADMISSION

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Debbie Banecker: djbanecker@comcast.net

Loren Manni: jmanni1@verizon.net



Coffee hour hosts for February

	7:45	10:15
Feb. 1st.	Joos	Minerd
Feb. 8th	Available	Boy Scouts
Feb. 15th	Available	Lusks
Feb. 22nd	Available	available

Many spots available in March. See Laurel Smith to sign up or email her at zoeymom1@gmail.com.



DEACON'S BENCH

A Lenten Call to Action

For those who observe the tradition, the season of Lent begins on our knees, as the as the priest (or deacon) imposes ashes on our foreheads with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words, which call to mind our own mortality, are a fitting beginning to a season of penitence and fasting meant to remind us that it is only by God's gracious gift that we are given everlasting life. But, Lent is not only a time of penitence; it can also be a call to action! I invite you to prayerfully read and meditate on the following text of Hymn 145, "Now Quit Your Care," which offers a Lenten call to strive to come near to the glory of God by standing with and for the oppressed.

May Lent bring you ever closer to God as you care for those he loves,
Deacon Helen

"Now Quit Your Care" – Words by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

*Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry;
For schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.
Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication;
God brings new beauty nigh; reply with love to love most high.*

*To bow the head in sackcloth and in ashes,
Or rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal;
but to be led to where God's glory flashes, his beauty to come near.
Make clear where truth and light appear.*

*For is not this the fast that I have chosen?
(The prophet spoke) To shatter every yoke?
Of wickedness the grievous bands to loosen, oppression put to flight,
To fight till every wrong's set right.*

*For righteousness and peace will show their faces
To those who feed the hungry in their need, and wrongs redress,
Who build the old waste places, and in the darkness shine.
Divine it is when all combine.*

*Then shall your light break forth as doth the morning;
Your health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glory bright,
Your way through life adorning; and love shall be the prize.
Arise! And make a paradise!*

Card and Calendar collection a success!

Christmas Gift Project for Seniors Celebrates 10 Years

St. Peter's recently capped off its 10th annual Christmas project for nursing home residents by making its largest-ever donation to three local long-term care facilities.

Just as she has for the past 10 years, **Suzi Sprankle** kicked off this year's ministry in August. She asked parishioners to bring in new calendars, stationery, pens, note cards, and greeting cards they receive in the mail. By November, the collection bins in the narthex were overflowing. Many items were from wildlife conservation agencies and veterans groups, according to Suzi.

On November 28, a group of dedicated parishioners sorted through thousands of items—including 463 full-size calendars. Suzi, **Mary Allan, Laurie Barbato, Barbara Callahan, Ward Davis, Sandy Follman, Edie Green, Joann Hare, Ruth Hedden, Trudy McArthur, Roberta Price, and Cynthia Sosnowski** packaged the items while enjoying fellowship and a meal in Williams Hall. Cynthia and Ward delivered the donations to The Evergreens and Care One in Moorestown and to Care One in Evesham.

Suzi and her team would like to thank St. Peter's parishioners for their faithfulness in saving and donating the calendars and cards and bringing them to church each week. Securing groups of similar items—such as Christmas cards—with rubber bands before placing them in the bins was a huge help.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important ministry that touches the lives of hundreds of our senior citizens.

Advertisers wanted!

St. Peter's Newsletter is looking for advertisers. Ads will cost \$200 for six months for a business card size. Must be a business that a parishioner is employed at, or owns or does business with St. Peter's. Businesses can buy more than one business card size.

Multi-Generational Valentine's Day Outreach

On February 8th, the Sunday school program will be hosting a multi-generational outreach activity. The children will meet in Williams Hall at 9:30 to make Valentine's Day cards for the children of Weisman Rehabilitation Hospital and for home bound parishioners. Everyone is welcome to come and participate alongside the children.

We will also be collecting novelty gift items appropriate for boys or girls 6 months to 17 years of age. Ideas include new books and magazines, hand held games, playing cards, activity and coloring books, small stuffed toys, and personal gift items. Please refrain from bringing edible treats as they can not be accepted by the hospital due to various medical conditions that are present.

A bin will be in the narthex and also in the hall by the Sunday school classrooms starting February 1st through February 8th. We are also in need of one or two large baskets. The baskets will be delivered by Monday, February 9th. For any questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Wu at 856-979-9447.



PARISH NEWS

Renewal of Vows and Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, February 14th

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 14th, 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. After the service, come join us for a traditional spaghetti dinner – bring a bottle of wine to celebrate! Babysitting will be available. Please contact Laurel to let her know if you will need this service. A sign-up list for those wishing to attend the dinner will be in the narthex.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17th

5:30-7 p.m.

Once again, St. Peter's will host a traditional pancake supper of pancakes, sausage, applesauce and beverages. Following supper, we will read Compline ending with the burning to ash of blessed palms saved from last Palm Sunday.

\$7 per adult

\$5 for seniors 62 and over

\$3 per child

Children under 2 are free

We look forward to seeing you!



Thank you

A **big thank you** to all you helped with the Greening and Ungreening of the Church for Christmas! Don and Janice Powell, Andrew LaRue, Andrea, Stephen, Drew, Steve, Leslie Haines, Anita Beard, Mike Krug, Ben and Betty Jones, Marty Banecker, Johnson's Farm, Robert Becker, Altar Guild and Craig and Shannon Higginbotham.

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

SarahJane Elizabeth leGrange, daughter of Ferdinand and Jessica leGrange, December 27, 2014

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

Lenten Retreat

Save the Date:

Lenten Retreat with Sr. BJ
(Barbara Jean Brown)
Saturday, March 14

from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Who Gives a Hoot About St. Paul's Journeys?

These Lenten meditations will focus on various aspects of the 4 journeys that St. Paul made as they are recorded in the Book of Acts. This will focus not so much on St. Paul, but on what we can learn of ourselves and our own journeys through life.

Reflection 1: Saul becomes Paul – What it means to have a relationship with Christ.

Reflection 2: Barnabas and Paul part company. What's it like to lose a friend over difference in belief and practice

Reflection 3: Paul lands in prison. What keeps you bound, unable to live your dreams?

Reflection 4: Shipwrecked on Malta. Experiencing loss and discouragement.

If you need childcare during the retreat please contact Sue Legnani

When Do I Bring in my Blessed Palms?

Blessed Palms will be burned to ash for use on Ash Wednesday at the end of the 10:15am service on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, February 15 this year. A box will be available in the narthex beginning the weekend of January 31 & February 1 to receive your palms. Alternatively, you may give them to Deacon Helen or Lisa Miner, our parish administrator. Thank you.



Did you know?

Did You Know? ... News about Our Diocese

The Diocese of New Jersey sends out a weekly Newsletter via email entitled, "Good News in the Garden State." Each issue features a timely message from Bishop Stokes and news and events from the Diocese; additionally, it includes events from the 150 churches in our diocese and links to articles around the web with new perspectives and happenings throughout the Episcopal Church.

To subscribe, go to <http://www.dioceseofnj.org/newsletter/#> and sign-up as directed.



The Diocese of New Jersey

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.

In Touch with Redemption School

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalm 33:8.

Dear Friends,

Following is the text of an email entitled, “Gratitude” which I received on January 19 from Father Jean Fils Chery, Rector of St. Basil’s Episcopal Church and Director of Redemption School, both in Gonaives, Haiti.

Dear friends in Christ,

The daily circumstances of Haiti allows me to value each day the financial support that we receive from you.

For nearly two weeks since the reopening of classes, public schools are not working. Because teachers have not been paid. Students, demanding the return of teachers in classrooms launch a series of events that require even non public schools join to pressure the government. This morning, students from different public schools in the city have invested the space of our school and strength require our students to vacate the premises. If they themselves do not have teachers, others may not work. This is an unfortunate situation, but that makes me think it was not for your support, it would be the same situation for our teachers and students too. I am writing this message to thank you for your support and tell you how much I appreciate the support which we have access.

Continue to support the process of education in Haiti in order to create a more just, more fraternal and united society.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Jean Fils Chery

Rector of St. Basile Episcopal Church, Haiti. *(Parent Church of Redemption School)*



The Rev. Jean Fils Chery, Director of Redemption School, Haiti, visited St. Peter’s on Wednesday-Friday, January 28-30. After meeting with him privately, your MDG Team hosted an open “Meet and Greet” Dessert to offer him the chance to meet with members of our congregation and beyond. Be sure to watch next month’s newsletter for the exciting details!

In case you missed it...

Unfortunately, each year our Christmas Pageant happens after the January newsletter is put together, but we wanted to recognize all of the hard work and talent that went into making the 2014 Christmas Pageant another great success! Thank you to all who participated. *Photos courtesy of Tiffany Myers.*



PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



The 4th, 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class recently celebrated Christmas with a Pollyanna gift exchange. They had record attendance in class and many happy faces! *Photo courtesy of Kristine Adler*

Don't Miss...

... Episcopal Relief and Development's 75th Anniversary Photo Exhibition, on display at Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State St., Trenton, 08618, Monday through Friday, beginning Thursday February 27 and ending Monday, March 9, 2015. The iconic photographs on display have been collected over the years to best highlight the mission, story, and context of Episcopal Relief and Development's work throughout the world since its beginning as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief seventy-five years ago. It's definitely worth the trip! (Note: On Friday and Saturday, February 28-March 1, the exhibit will be at the Diocese of New Jersey's Diocesan Convention in Princeton, NJ.)

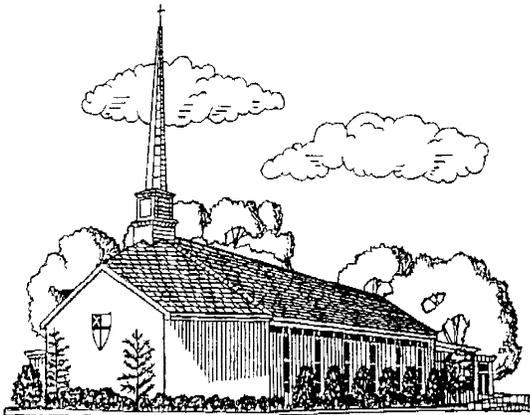


St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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 Minerd, 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.



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.

February 2015

J2A Retreat.....	1
From Pulpit to Pew.....	2
Kids' Corner.....	3
Body & Soul.....	4
Deacon's Bench.....	5
Card Collection.....	6
Parish News.....	7
Lenten Retreat.....	8
Redemption School.....	9
In case you missed it.....	10
Photo Album.....	11

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

Contains Dated Material

Return Service Requested