



J2A goes on Urban Adventure

By Leslie Haines

On June 21st, members of the St. Peter's Journey to Adulthood (J2A) class went on Urban Adventure. The Urban Adventure is a trip to an unfamiliar city that takes place during the summer after the first year of J2A. The group took the PATCO high speed line to Philadelphia where they attended TORA study at the Society Hill Synagogue. Following this, they walked around and visited Old St Mary's, Old St. Joseph's, Christ Church, and Christ Church burial ground. After passing the Quaker meeting, they lunched at Independence Mall, visited Mother Bethel AME church for a tour, then walked to the 9th street Italian Market, where they stopped for ice cream and a little World Cup watching before heading home. The weather was beautiful and it was a great day!



PRAYER

Do you sometimes feel the need to "get away" and find some quiet time to be with God? Is this difficult for you to do when you're surrounded by distractions and responsibilities? I do. "LECTIO DIVINA" (DIVINE READING) and "Centering Prayer" are two forms of reflective meditation leading to union with God. Father Don has agreed to introduce these methods during Adult Education this Fall in the hope that we might form a group for quiet meditation on a regular basis. If this interests you, please call Anita Beard at (609) 654 6559.



Ellie, Jordan, Logan and Grace are pictured after TORA study, on St. Peter's Way in Philadelphia as they began an Urban Adventure J2A.

July/August Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

July 13 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.

July 13 – 17 Vacation Bible School, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

July 22 Vestry Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

August 10 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.

Note: Summer (July-August) office hours – 9-12 p.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by *The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller*

“32. *For the Good Use of Leisure*

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*” (1979 BCP, page 825)

This prayer from our Book of Common Prayer is especially worthy of our reflection during the summer months. I eagerly await “times of refreshment and peace”. The academic year, September through May/June seem to dictate in our American/New Jersey culture when those times of refreshment and peace are taken. Programmed activities end or at least slow down. I find that my calendar has far fewer appointment scheduled. I hope and pray that that is true for you, as well.

Sometimes, though, we want to get the most out of our vacations that we never rest, are never refreshed, and find no peace. We are constantly on the go. Our weekends get so filled up with our recreating, that we look forward to work on Monday as a rest. Our spirits rarely get opened to the goodness of God’s creation.

I’ve been reflecting lately on the way clergy take vacations. When I was first ordained, most of the clergy I knew took one month during the summer. They even tried to pick the month that had five Sundays. Over the years, however, “Letters of Agreement” for clergy have included four weeks of vacation, along with two weeks of continuing education. Most of the clergy I know now spread out their vacation time by the week, or at perhaps two weeks in the summer and one week here and there at other times. I wonder if previous generations of clergy had the better and healthier way. An advantage of taking four weeks or one month at a time gave one the opportunity to really wind down from the day to day ministry, spend several weeks resting, refreshing and finding peace, before beginning to think about and plan for reentry into the parish after vacation. This year I am taking three weeks together and saving the fourth week for another time.

I wonder if all of us try to do too much, without enough down time on vacations and weekends. I know I have to be careful here, because coming to Church might be considered doing too much, but we do need time for our spiritual lives. If we don’t allow our bodies and minds to rest/re-create, then our spiritual lives will suffer, and then we can lose contact with our God who wants more for us than we can either ask or imagine.

Here’s a suggestion for a 15-30 minutes spiritual exercise each day on vacation. Find a quiet and comfortable (but not too comfortable) place to sit. Pray the “Jesus Prayer” over and over again, perhaps even 100 times, saying the first line breathing in, and the second line breathing out:

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
Have mercy on me, a sinner.*

Give thanks for everything you can think of (make a list – the air you breathe, your life, the people who love you, ice cream, you get the idea...) Pray for the world, our country, St. Peter’s (esp. our clergy – we need your prayers), your family, friends and neighbors, and any special intentions you have. Pray the Lord’s Prayer. Sit in silence for as long as you can 5-15 minutes?

Have a safe and re-creating summer. Don’t forget to worship God at St. Peter’s or another Church wherever you are.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Don

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

The experts say we should read to our children for at least 20 minutes a day. What if we were to include some Bible stories in that time? Older children can also benefit from reading the scriptures for a few minutes a day as well. If you don't know what to read, follow the table of contents from a children's Bible to get the basic stories everyone should know. Youth Bibles usually include some side bars of information about a specific passage, or some background about the culture or history of the time in which a specific book of the Bible was written.

If you're wondering what Bible you should give a child of any age, here are some tips. In general, choose a Bible that fits the age of the child. Children will probably go through at least six different Bibles from the day they are born until they leave home. This not only goes along with their reading development, but it also shows the children that they are progressing in their knowledge of God.

Preschool children will need a Bible that contains simple illustrations that cover key Bible stories, and that have a small number of simple words per picture. Most preschool Bibles cover the same kinds of stories from the Old and New Testaments. It's best if the illustrations are not too cartoonish but are appropriate for young children.

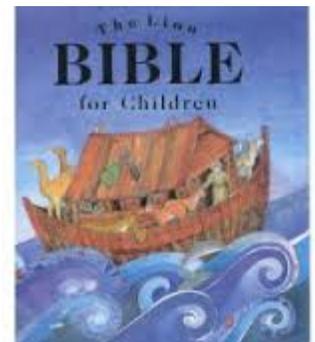
Beginning readers will want a Bible that contains simple illustrations and more stories than a preschool Bible. It's best if each of the stories is at least two pages long.

As children mature in the elementary years their Bibles will have fewer pictures and more words per page. Make sure the illustrations are interesting and up-to-date. Bibles that have simple reference lists and an index are also good for this age. Make sure that the Bible is something they will enjoy looking through and reading. This will probably eliminate the King James Version (KJV), 12th grade reading level, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) and the New King James Version (NKJV) both an 11th grade reading level.

Pick the most literal translation for the child's reading level. For older children, the New International Version (NIV), 8th grade reading level, is the most literal non-denominational translation available. Younger children can read the New International Readers Version (NLrV), 3rd grade reading level, or the New Century Version (NCV), 6th grade reading level. The Message by Eugene Peterson is a good paraphrase Bible for readers in grade 6 and above. The Common English Bible (CEB) is a new translation that was created by translators from 22 faith traditions and 5 countries and is written at a 7th grade reading level.

If you are looking for some suggestions, here are some highly recommended children's Bibles:

The Lion Bible for Children, retold by Murray Watts, with illustrations by Helen Cann (Oxford: Lion Publishing, 2002). This Bible includes a broad range of material from the psalms, prophets, and epistles, and stays close to the words of scripture. This is considered the best version of the Bible for confident readers, 9 and up. *(continued on page 6)*



Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

Habits make up most of how we spend our days. We get up and, for me, make some coffee and while it's brewing, take the dog for a walk. If that changes because of one thing or another, my day feels 'off.'

I'm famous for making lists of what has to be done on a given day. If I don't get what's on the list done, it gets moved to the next day. But I don't feel good that I didn't accomplish what I'd planned.

I wonder how the people in Moses' time felt when they saw the rules written on the tablets? I wonder if they felt 'off' when they broke any one of those rules? Did it bother them at all? For some, I'm sure it did.

Getting back to the habits that rule our lives. Are we happy with how those habits affect our day-to-day? Do we really feel good after spending three or four hours watching TV programs that really weren't that good? How about the really bad habits we have like eating too much junk food or smoking and others that only you know? I know I hate it when the day comes to an end and I know I haven't accomplished what I'd set out to do and especially when I don't have a good reason why.

Maybe this summer, what's left of it, we can reflect on how the not so good habits we've incorporated into our lives can be changed for the better. So that by the time fall comes and schools and groups who've been suspended for the summer, start up again, we'll have made some changes in our lives which can mean becoming more productive, happier and more in tune with what Jesus meant for us: to live lives filled with joy and peace.

Hope you all have a great rest of the summer and will get all the things done on your list.

VBS is coming!

Wilderness Escape:

Where God Guides and Provides

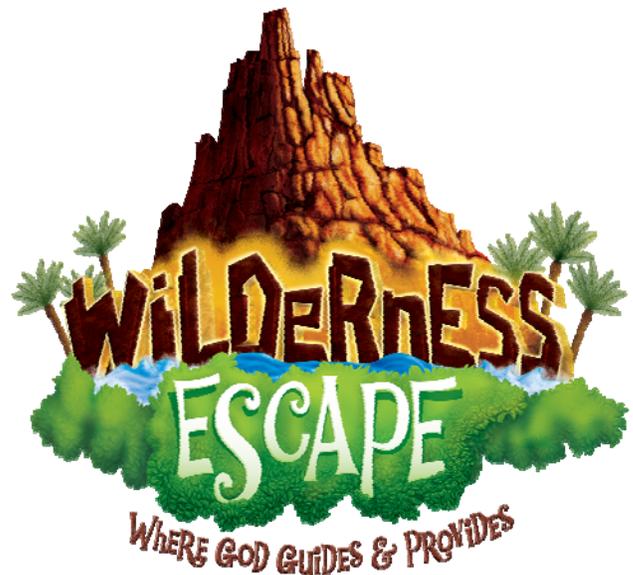
July 13 to July 17

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

This summer we will caravan with Moses and the Israelites from their escape from Egypt to the Promised Land. Children will join one of the twelve tribes of Israel and experience what it was like to live in the Israelite camp, meet Moses and hear his story of leading the people, play games, eat food and participate in the community of the Israelite people. Don't miss the fun and the opportunity to experience being one of God's chosen people.

Download the registration form at:

[Www.stpetersmedford.org](http://www.stpetersmedford.org) or just show up the first night!



DEACON'S BENCH

Weeds, Wildflowers, and Treasures

By Deacon Helen Orlando

The July 1st edition of “The Philadelphia Inquirer” carried an article about Mischelle Ahmed, an Egg Harbor Township woman who grows native wildflowers from seed and sells both seeds and plants over the internet. While being interviewed, Mischelle led the reporter on a tour of the woods behind her property, occasionally stopping to point out delicate wildflowers, so small that an untrained eye could easily miss them. Responding to the reporter’s comment, “I love the notion of pausing, looking closer, and finding an unexpected treasure, Mischelle responded, “A weed by definition is a plant growing where someone doesn’t want it. But every plant on this planet has a place somewhere. A place where it’s meant to be.”

Ms Ahmed’s words speak not only of weeds and wildflowers, but also to the universal human need to feel useful and valued, especially when chronic illness, grief, job loss, separation from a loved one, empty nest syndrome, or any other event or series of events disrupts life as we know it. As Mischelle would say, each of us yearns to know that “we have a place somewhere. A place where [we] are meant to be.” We need to know that our life has value and purpose and that we belong.

As Christians, we can remind ourselves that no matter what misfortunes and upheavals we experience in life, our relationship with God in Christ gives us the value, purpose, and place to be that we seek. That we are valued by God is without doubt. Over and over, Jesus tells us that those who have received him are now both his friends and also adopted children of God. Both statements mean that God made a choice to love us...so much that “he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

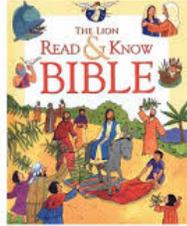
When we find we are no longer productive in the workforce, no longer caring for family, no longer part of a loving relationship, or no longer physically or mentally able to function as we always have, it is time to remind ourselves that “for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Although grief and perhaps anger for what is lost is normal and healthy, I have found that God often gives gifts of learning and experience which make us more open and caring to others and, sometimes, guides us to a new ministry that we never could have imagined on our own.

So, where are we meant to be? Where do we belong? In the immediate moment, it may be more important to consider who we are than where we are. If we assume that we are where God wants us to be at any given time, than our job is always to be the hands and feet of Christ, loving others into new life. We are God’s “unexpected treasures” and will do God’s work if we treat others as our own “unexpected treasures.” And, ultimately, we know we are meant to be with God in Christ, for Jesus promised, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1b-3)

Amen.

Kids Corner (cont.)

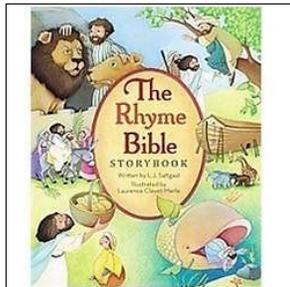
(continued from page 3) The Lion Read and Know Bible, (Sophie Piper, 2008) is a good choice for children 6- 9 years old. This Bible is a very complete one told in story form. It includes a short introduction to the Old and New Testament sections of the Bible, as well as a brief section on “In between the Testaments”. In between each story are illustrations and some information about the times, geography, culture or religious rituals that are associated with the scripture. This is a good read aloud Bible, and also a good one for early readers.



Tomie DePaola's Book of Bible Stories (Putnam, 1990). He is one of our family's favorite authors because his illustrations and stories are so wonderfully done. The text of this book consists of selections from the New International Version, with some simplifications. This is an excellent book for reading aloud with younger children, or for independent reading by early readers up to age 8.

The Children's Illustrated Bible, by Selena Hastings (Dorling Kindersley, 1994) is a Bible that is ideal for the 8- to 12-year old who is more drawn to facts and information than to emotionally stirring stories or visual images. This Bible includes photographs and maps as well as illustrations that help make factual information clear and accessible to children.

The Rhyme Bible Storybook, by L. J. Sattgast (Zonderkidz, 1996), provides an enjoyable and readable adventure through the best known Old and New Testament stories all told in rhyme. The illustrations are fanciful without being too silly. I have found that the rhyming text helps to handle some of the harder stories without giving up the deeper meaning of the story. It also does a good job of covering the best known stories we want young children to know from the Bible.



One last thought is that our Biblical stories are also

expressed in many good children's books in the form of children's literature. Our Episcopal faith also includes many saints that are often overlooked such as St. Nicholas, St. Patrick, St. Valentine and St. Mary. A search online or in the library will turn up many good children's books about these and other saints, as well as people in the Bible, that will enrich a child's knowledge of their faith and offer them an appreciation of those who have gone before us in the church.

Happy reading!

“Thank You” from Newborns in Need: Serving God's Children

Our Heart of the Home program recently received a large box of brand-new baby items, including two receiving blankets, three large, hooded bath towels, one newborn outfit, four sweater and cap sets, an ice pack, and 14 pairs of shoes. Because Heart of the Home does not distribute baby items, all were donated to the local branch of Newborns-in-Need, based in Mt. Laurel, NJ. Following is the thank you note received from Charlene Delanoy, director of the local chapter of Newborns in Need.

Dear Friend of Newborns in Need,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our cause. Currently, we will be sharing these items with needy families through the Virtua Center for Women in Mt. Holly, the Early Head Start program in Westampton, and with other individuals who contact us for assistance. They are very grateful for our efforts on behalf of babies and also send their thanks for your thoughtful donations. Our goal is to support families of newborns in need with essential items for the first few weeks of life. Through your help we are able to do just that. Again, thank you for considering Newborns in Need, Burlington County.

Charlene Delanoy, Director

To learn more about Newborns in Need: Serving God's Children, go to www.newbornsinneed.org.

PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

College Graduates

Stephanie Jones, *Towson University, Bachelor of Science, Special Education*

Angela Crawford, *Indiana University, Bachelor of Science, Psychology*

Christopher McCammitt, *Burlington County College, Associates of Science, Automotive*

Rebecca McCammitt, *Muhlenberg College, Bachelor of Science; Natural Science, Minor in Fine Arts, Magna Cum Laude*

Carrie A. Colaianni, *University of Scranton, M.S., School Counseling*

Nancy Curtis, *New Brunswick Theological Seminary*

Jamieson Smith, *Saint Joseph's University, Bachelor of Arts; Film and Communications*

Marisa Snyder, *Rutgers University, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science*

High School Graduates

Elizabeth Black, Miranda Clement, Jamie Cureton, Maxwell Denn, Kimberly Hoover, Abigail Moore, Noelle Schillinger

Eighth Grade Graduates

Joseph Falk, Scott Hoover, Brady Moore, Joey Moore, Zoe Musick, Ellie Myers

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

None

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

Canon Moore Golf Outing

On a sun-drenched Monday, June 2nd, the 5th Annual Canon James L. Moore Golf Outing was once again a huge success. Under the tireless leadership of Jeff Moore, this year's golf outing raised more than \$20,000 for St. Peter's building fund. Well done Jeff !

A record-setting 108 golfers tested their skills at the beautiful Medford Lakes Country Club, enjoyed a bbq lunch, beverages, and a crazy pants contest throughout the day, and a terrific buffet dinner as the evening's festivities truly got rolling. Hardly a soul left early, and for dinner, more than 50 additional friends and family joined us for food, prizes, and fun. The 35 donated gift baskets drew loads of hopeful raffle tickets, while several live auction items featured spirited bidding and a more than a few "oohs and aahs" from the crowd.



Special thanks go to all who helped recruit sponsors, golfers and prizes, and of course to those who golfed and ate and bought raffle tickets and bid on auction items. A very special thanks goes to our event day volunteers :

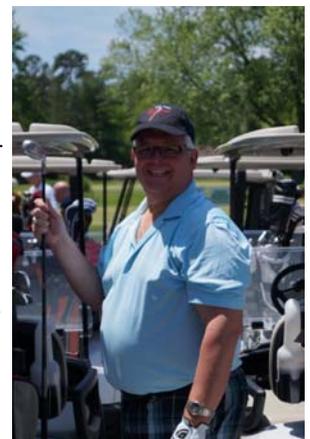
Howard and Joann Black, Bob and Sue Legnani, Ruth Hedden, Derry Buzby, Lisa Miner, Danielle Colaiani, and Debi, Abby and Emma Moore. And last but certainly not least, our heartfelt thanks go to Jeff Moore and the ENTIRE Moore family, without whose energy and enthusiasm this event would not be nearly as successful.

Each year this event has gotten bigger and better, with the beneficiary being St. Peter's. Mark your calendars now for the first Monday in June 2015 for the next Canon Moore Golf Outing and make sure you're a part of the fun, and a part of what we're building at St. Peter's Episcopal Church !



Want more golf?

The 10th Annual Trinity Cathedral Community Day will occur on Monday, October 13th, at Mercer Oaks–West. This event has produced over \$200,000 to support the ongoing mission and ministries at Trinity Cathedral. The cost is \$175, and each player will receive ten door prize tickets to be used similarly in a drawing for the usual splendid array of gifts. St Peter's foursome of Don Powell, Ken Hoover, Steve Haines and John Colaiani won the Bishop's Cup in 2011 and 2012. We have fielded at least two foursomes in the last several years. Interested golfers should contact Father Don.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Buzby.

What is St. Paul's anyway?

Maybe you hear the announcement now and then about St. Paul's, but you are not sure exactly what it is. Or maybe your child has come home saying they want to go to St. Paul's, but you weren't sure if it is appropriate. Well, here is what you need to know. A volunteer team from St. Peter's serves breakfast once a month at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden to those who are less fortunate than we are. Some of the folks who attend are homeless, others are just in need of a warm meal and a bit of fellowship. Our Sunday is always the *second Sunday* of the month. No matter the holiday (Mother's Day, Father's Day), inclement weather or stifling heat, St. Peter's has dutifully honored its commitment for the past 19 years. The program was started at St. Peter's under the leadership and support of Richard Trimble, Kelly Trimble, and Harry & Gretchen Campbell. Our service involves buying, cooking, serving, and cleaning up after the breakfast service. Sometimes there are multiple seatings to accommodate all those in need. We share a pre-meal blessing prayer with all those who attend, and we have a lot of fun working together. It has been and continues to be a great opportunity for youth and adults and friends of our congregation to serve, work as a team, and be reminded of all the blessings we often take for granted. Please consider joining us or supporting our mission. For more information please contact Lisa Miner in our Parish Office. Thank you !

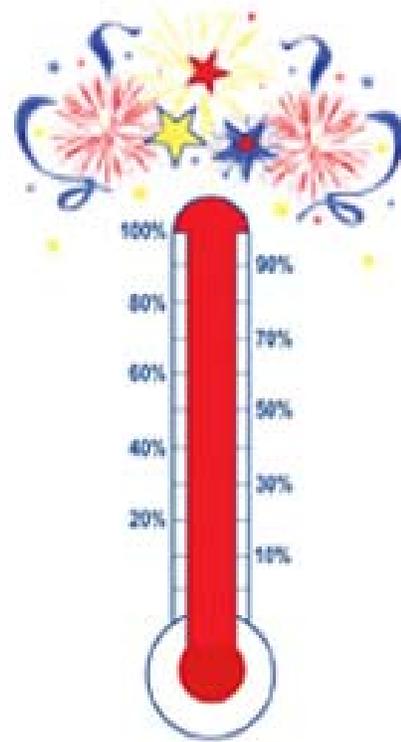


It takes many hands to feed the 60-80 people who attend the breakfast each month. Above, Mekenzie Montgomery and Beckie McCammitt cook the pancakes. Right, an assembly line puts together the plates. Gretchen Campbell and Beckie McCammitt start the plating process and add pancakes, Tim Hogan serves up eggs, Mela Montgomery adds ham to the plate, and Lisa Miner adds the bread and passes the plates to the servers. Meanwhile, in the background, the Montgomery sisters continue to cook up pancakes for the second seating ! *(Photos courtesy of John Colaianni)*



Capital Campaign Results are in!

A huge thank you to the 85 individuals and families that gave \$39,483 during the six week Capital Campaign. We received 110% of our \$36,000 goal and pledge dollars are still coming in! Haven't given yet? It's not too late to participate in the campaign to improve the facilities here at St. Peter's. Thank you all so much.



OUR CHURCH'S
**FINANCIAL
HEALTH**

As of 6/30/14:

Income: \$25,837

Expenses: \$28,526

Deficit: -\$2,689

Please remember St Peter's during the summer season.

Help us raise funds for St Peters with FundPhotos!

St Peters is a member of FundPhotos, an online photo processing retailer that donates back to St Peters church 20% of whatever we spend on photo processing and any other their great photo personalized products! Its simple to use and the products are the same quality as Snapfish and other photo processors, and they are at competitive prices. Join www.FundPhotos.com today and start helping us raise funds while you preserve your summer memories. When you go onto FundPhotos, you'll notice the site states that organizations receive 10% donation from purchases, but St Peters is one of the charter organizations that went through the FundPhotos beta test period last year, so we get **20%** - yeah! Contact Cynthia Sosnowski with any questions 609.602.2762.

Cancer Survivors Sunday



It was a beautiful day in June when St. Peter's moved the annual Cancer Survivors Sunday celebration out into the community at Freedom Park in Medford. This year's theme was "Savor the Sweet Life." Attendees could place a marble in the jar and sign the register in celebration of their own survivorship or someone else's, Father Don lead a brief prayer service, adults enjoyed music by Big Band Express, the children enjoyed playing in the sandbox and on the playground, and all enjoyed fellowship and lots of "sweets". Much thanks to Cindy Cullen for her leadership on this event.



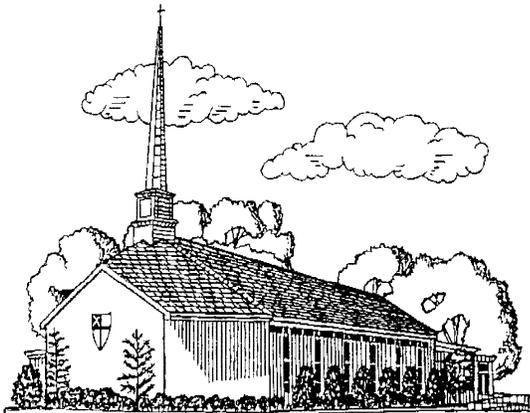
Photos courtesy of Jim Beard and Michelle Scarpulla.

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.



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.

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