



## J2A Class Ready for Confirmation

Over the past two years, eight 9th and 10th grade parishioners traveled together on their "journey to adulthood" in preparation for Confirmation. This celebration with Bishop Stokes and our entire congregation was held on May 31st at the 10:15 service. To celebrate their accomplishment and to thank their parents for their support through this process, the students cooked dinner for their parents on May 16th. The menu included ravioli, which they made from scratch! Many thanks to their J2A leaders, Leslie Haines, Mandy Keen and Dave Lusk for all of the time, energy and enthusiasm they put into the two year program. Enjoy the photos below from their dinner. *Photos courtesy of Pat and Dave Lusk.*



### May Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

[WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG](http://WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG)

June 1 Rev. Canon James L. Moore Memorial Golf Outing

June 6 Medford Relay for Life Team Walk

June 7 Cancer Survivors Celebration and Sunday School Teacher Recognition

June 10 Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m.

June 14 St. Paul's Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.

June 14 Baccalaureate Service 10:15 am

June 20 Run and Pray 5K

# FROM PULPIT TO PEW

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by *The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller*

We are coming to the close of the “program year” of St. Peter’s Church. That is, Sunday School will end for the year on June 7 and many of our groups (committees) take the summer off. June 14 will be the Baccalaureate Service at 10:15 as we congratulate those who have graduated from Middle School, High School, College, Graduate School, or a Trade School. Many celebrations occurred during May: Rite 13 Celebration, Confirmation and our Bishop’s Visitation, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Memorial Day, and more.

What shall we do now, for the summer for our faith? PLEASE DON’T TAKE THE SUMMER OFF FROM GOD!!!! God won’t take it from you. In the Healing Service (Wednesday mornings at 10:00) the following Collect can be used:

*O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

This Collect, I think, is a key to what we might do during the summer with God, when much of our everyday life is less structured.

Returning and rest At the heart of our spiritual lives is a relationship with God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Summer can be a fruitful time of spending quiet time with God. You and those who surround you could take 5 minutes (you could do it several times each day) each day to use the “Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families” (Book of Common Prayer 1979, pages 136-140). There is a short Service “In the Morning”, “At Noon”, “In the Early Evening”, and “At the Close of Day”. Of course you could use them any time of the day, perhaps as the beginning of a family meal? If you wanted to spice it up a bit, use it in conjunction with “Forward Day by Day”.

Quietness and confidence How about taking five minutes of sitting with God each day or a couple of times a week? Find a quiet and comfortable place, light a candle, and just be intentional about being in the presence of God. To keep from being distracted by outward noises and/or inner ones, try saying over and over a “holy word or phrase”. Something like “Lord”, “Come Holy Spirit”, “Jesus is Lord”, “Alleluia”, etc. When all is quiet you don’t even need to say the word(s). But when the noises come back, repeat the word(s) until you are quiet again. I liken this to crawling up on our mother or father’s lap when we were young children and rest in their arms. In this quiet time with God, it is like climbing up on God’s lap and resting.

I am not, as most of you know or can tell, a runner. Many runners use their running time or walking time as a time to be with God. Perhaps you don’t use your ipod but rather repeat the “holy word or phrase” as you run/walk. I find saying over and over the Jesus Prayer to be a great way to control my breathing and be with God.

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God; Have mercy on me, a Sinner.*

I breathe in or out on the first half, and reverse it on the second. As I get control of my breathing I say the whole prayer breathing in, and then breathing out.

You could also use “Taking Faith Home” available by email each week from the St. Peter’s and in the Narthex. We would be happy to make a complete set for you for the summer, just call or email the office and ask. There are wonderful suggestions of how to engage with God and each other outside of the Church building and Sunday worship. (*continued on page 6*)

; Sunday at 7:45 am and 10:15 am.

May you and yours, this summer, live into this Collect:

# KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

Rites of passage are important to all of us. This spring there have been three of these rites that have come along in quick succession. The first was the celebration of Eucharist Instruction for the children in grades one to three. Seventeen children in this grade level spent the six Sundays of Lent learning about the parts of the Eucharist service, and the vestment and vessels that are used each week for communion. While they all already receive communion it was important for them to learn in more detail why we have this sacrament and what the parts of the service are, and what they mean. The milestone is not that they could now receive communion, because they already do, but that they stood in front of the congregation and publicly showed that they, “Will continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayer” (BCP page 304). And we, the congregation affirmed that we would support them as they continue to grow in Christ.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Rite 13 class had their Rite 13 Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood. In this ceremony the congregation said to them that as they passed from childhood to adulthood, their church congregation stood with them as they make their way on the journey and as the writer of the J2A program said: “We’re here if you need us; we think you are terrific; we love you”. This is another milestone our youth can look back on as making progress. They are growing. They are becoming adults. Rite 13 is the liturgical cornerstone that lays the foundation for the entire congregation of St. Peter’s to rise up and in one mighty voice tell our young people in the word of J2A: “You matter to us. Your lives are of inestimable value. The journey you are now embarking on is significant. It is a way that we fulfill our baptismal covenant of “seeking and serving Christ in all persons.”

The third milestone we will celebrate is Confirmation on May 31. Eight young people who have spent the last four years together through Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood will be confirmed together along with other members of St. Peter’s. Through this four year journey they have had the chance to learn how to listen to themselves and to others; work on their strengths; make a difference; actively build relationships and build community; recognize four steps to a task: the need, the plan, the process, the result, and practice compassion, celebration and the mystery of life. They also spent time away together studying about what it means to be “church” and how it works. This is not an end to their Christian Formation, but a beginning of their adult life in the church. And again we have the responsibility to say to them: “We support you in your journey in Christ and you are important to us. We want you to work alongside of us and take your adult place as Christ’s disciples in the world.”

These rites of passage have given us an opportunity to affirm all that is good in the young people who live and grow around us and to recognize them as fellow disciples of Christ in the world. Don’t miss the chance to continually say out loud that they are important to us.



The Rite 13 students celebrated with a dinner the night before their Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood.

*Photo courtesy of Nancy Castiglia.*

## Body and Soul

*By Edith Green, RN*

Can you imagine how you would feel if you belonged to a group of folks who hung around together with a leader you followed because he seemed wise and just a really nice guy. And then the unthinkable, he died and the rest of you were floundering wondering what would happen next. Not only that but there were political forces who didn't like your leader and were looking for his followers. You were all scared! So, you all met secretly to think about what you should do next.

Then one day while in one of your meetings, a huge wind came with fire and you all began speaking in different languages! As Phil Rizzuto used to say, Holy Cow! What is going on? You looked around at each other. Was this some kind of magical show?

Fortunately, one of you calmed everyone down explaining that a prophet had predicted this very thing. It was meant to be.

How many times have we experienced unpleasant things and felt bereft wondering what will happen next? But, how often do we think about those people who lived so long ago and how they solved their problems? So many people are written about in the Bible. So many problems presented themselves; how many were solved by those who believed? Perhaps in this season after Pentecost, Maybe we can learn some lessons from those folks who lived so long ago but had a great deal of faith.

And finally:

We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

# FAITH

(F) FORWARDING

(A) ALL

(I) ISSUES

(T) TO

(H) HEAVEN

## Vacation Bible School

### Haiti

### Hands Across the Water

This summer our VBS will center around the relationship we have with Redemption School in Haiti. The children will learn about this beautiful, but challenged country and the lives of the children who live there. We will be using some wonderful children's books that tell the stories of Haitian children who have gone through earthquakes and flooding, but who also love to play soccer, enjoy the rich Haitian tradition of story telling, ride on a Tap Tap (the name for the Haitian buses) and go to school just like our kids do. We'll sing, play games, have snacks, and learn how our lives are similar and different from Haitian children in the Haiti Discovery Center. We'll also learn how God works in their lives and ours.

**When: July 12-16, 2015**

**Time: 6:00-8:00 pm**

**Where: St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**1 Hartford Rd.**

**Medford, NJ 08055**

**609-654-2963**



# DEACON'S BENCH

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## Redemption School on Facebook

*From a May 9, 2015 Facebook posting by Father Jean Fils Chery.*

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To begin, we want to quote Nelson Mandela who famously said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Education has a vital role in sustainable development and in social balance.

[Long ago, the Episcopal church of Haiti/Anglican Communion was authorized by [the] Haitian government to run schools.] Now, the Church has a network of 200 schools throughout the country, especially in remote areas where basic services are still missing. *Institution La Redemption*, a kindergarten, primary, elementary and secondary [school], is one of those Episcopalian school[s]. It was founded more than fifty years ago [in Gonaives, Haiti.] One of the two facilities in use today was the headquarters of the "Tonton Macoutes" ("Bogeymen"), [a private police force charged with torturing opponents of former dictator, Claude Duvalier. The property has been given to the Episcopal Church of Haiti, [which has] transformed it into a place to educate [disadvantaged] children. *Institution La Redemption* now has 287 students. It has 35 teachers, among them four women...

*From Deacon Helen*

The needs of Redemption School are many and varied. Our continued donations, along with NJ diocesan matching grants and gifts from others, will enable Redemption School to serve more disadvantaged children, particularly girls, who are usually compelled to stay out of school to do household chores or go to the market while boys go to school. At the present time, funds are badly needed for a "well-equipped" computer lab with internet access and to fund teachers' training, faculty and staff salaries, and a canteen. To date, we have donated \$808.94 in cash and materials to Redemption School. Within the coming week, we will be sending another \$500.00 to assist with Redemption's valuable work among the children of Haiti. We appreciate all who have been and are now supporting our various fundraising efforts and ask for your prayers for the people of Haiti.



*Students from Redemption School assist homeless children.*

## Thank you!

Thank you to Sue Legnani, our Christian Formation Director, Loren Manni, Chair of Christian Education, and all of the Christian Education volunteers who gave so much of their time to teach our youngest parishioners and lead them in their faith through Journey to Adulthood, Rite 13, Sunday School, Godly Play, Children's Chapel, the nursery, our Intergenerational activities and Vacation Bible School. Please join us on June 7th at the 10:15 service as we recognize all of our volunteers.



Thank you to all who came out to help with the indoor and outdoor parish clean up day on Saturday, May 30th. All of your hard work is very much appreciated and noticed!



### **From Pulpit to Pew (Continued from page 2)**

Of course, do come to worship during the summer months, as well. Perhaps try a different Service than the one you go to throughout the program year. Remember, every week we have a 5 pm Holy Eucharist on Saturday; Sunday at 7:45 am and 10:15 am.

May you and yours, this summer, live into this Collect:

*O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

In Christ,

Father Don

# PARISH NEWS



Kristen Lusk graduated with honors from Towson University with a Bachelor's of Arts in International Studies; and minors in cultural studies and electronic media & film. She is a member of the Omicron Kappa Delta National Leadership Society and the Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society.



Eleven Year old, Mekelsey Montgomery poses in a NY theater with her director, Tom Lee, prior to the movie premier, MESSAGE OF HOPE. The 6th grader portrayed a "younger Bonnie" in the Christian based movie. Autographs are available free of charge ... well...at least for now!

## BAPTISMS

*Sebastian Kai Renshaw, son of Chad and Mary Renshaw*

*Asher Ryan Renshaw, son of Chad and Mary Renshaw*

## WEDDINGS

*None*

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

*None*

# Haiti Government

By Grayson Myers

Haiti's government is a republic with a semi-presidential system. This means that Haiti has both a President and a Prime Minister. The electorate - all persons over 18 - selects the President and the legislature, called the National Assembly, which consists of the Senate (30 members) and the Chamber of Deputies (99 members). The President then picks the Prime Minister, who must be confirmed by the National Assembly. The Prime Minister is the head of the government and selects the country's cabinet. The President and the Prime Minister are jointly responsible for national defense. The President serves a five-year term and cannot serve consecutive terms. The election for the office consists of two rounds in order to sort through all the candidates. Two-thirds of the Senate serves six-year terms; the other third are up for reelection every two years. The members of the Chamber of Deputies serve four-year terms. The highest judicial power in Haiti is the Supreme Court. The President, who must choose from candidates put forward by Senate, selects its members. Currently, the President of Haiti is Michel Martelly (elected in a runoff in 2011), while the Prime Minister is Evans Paul. The next election will be held later in the fall of 2015. More than 120 political parties are vying for power.

Throughout its history, instability has plagued Haiti. It has seen a host of coups and various strongmen hold power. The country is on its 23<sup>rd</sup> constitution, which is from 1987. The point is that the country's democratic history is not exactly rich, and it is still struggling with achieving legitimate and sustainable democracy today. Though elections are scheduled for this year, elections for some positions are years overdue (for example, the section of the senate supposed to be elected every two years). Elections were only scheduled this year after the assembly was dissolved and the President began to rule by decree. Haiti's government ranks as one of the most corrupt in the world, according to the Corruption Perceptions Index. Given Haiti's history, such challenges will likely persist.

# Shop for Haiti



## Fair Trade – Handmade – Non-Profit

Mark your calendars now for **St. Peter's first International, Fair Trade Gift Sale**, to be held the weekend of November 14 and 15, 2015. Support the students of Redemption School and the many artisans who handcraft the items for sale. More news to come!

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Native Haitians were pre-Columbian Amerindians called Taino, "the good people." The Taino named their land "Ayiti," meaning "Land of the Mountains" – a term that evolved into "Haiti."**



### Burlington Convocation

Submitted by Jim Beard

Two clergy and five lay people from St. Peter's attended: Canon Donald J Muller, Deacon Helen Orlando, Mary Allan, James Beard, Jack Hobson, Pat Lusk, and Bob Spalding.

Fr. Don proposed a resolution \$25.00 for the Choir Camp from each congregation in the Burlington Convocation. The resolution passed. Checks should be mailed to and made payable to Christ Church, 301 Main St. Riverton NU 08077, earmarked Choir Camp.

The Rev. Deborah Piggins, Interim Rector of St. Andrew's, Mt. Holly was elected Clergy Representative to represent the Burlington Convocation for the Department of Missions.

St. Peter's announced the Rev. Canon Moore Golf Tournament on June 1, the Cancer Survivor's' Celebration of June 6 and June 7, and the Run and Pray 5K for Saturday of Father's Day Weekend.

# A Second Chance

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By Edward Brown

It began this way: in 1952 a young man was on a bus traveling along a busy road in a South Jersey town. Raised voices suddenly came from the rear of the bus and he noticed a young black woman trying to assist an older woman who was actively ill and in great distress. Startled, he recognized her as a classmate from his high school a few years back. She was desperately calling out for help and begging the driver to send for an ambulance.

The young man was in a quandary: not knowing what to do, he was immobilized by shyness and indecision. The bus would go right past his house and his father was a doctor. He could really help, but to his shame, he remained in his seat, saying nothing or proffering any aid as the driver nastily kicked the two women off the bus.

This incident and his failure to respond preyed on his mind for a long time thereafter. Through the years he resolved he would never again turn his back on someone who needed help if it was within his power to give it.

Two decades and more later, he and his wife are on the beach early in the fall in the resort of Surf City on the New Jersey seaside. They had been able to spend lots of time at the shore this particular summer, and he'd been running on the beach since June—one, two, three miles a day. A good thing too: he'd morphed into a real sluggard in the years of inactivity since leaving the Marines. Running in the sun was paying off: he was in reasonable shape for someone with forty years on his odometer and felt as fit as a flea.

The autumn beach was fairly crowded this Saturday; lifeguards were not on duty this late in the season but people were enjoying the fall water nevertheless. Our man was in the middle of a snooze when his wife shook him awake. He got up to see people standing and shouting, pointing toward the water. Above the hubbub, he could hear the cries of someone in mortal terror: a teenage boy was beyond the surf, struggling and screaming for help. He was drowning.

He looked around, but saw no one making a move to aid the boy. "You have to help," his wife said.

Hoping he still had some of the skills of his lifeguard days, he took off in a run through the surf and got to the youngster, a big kid with plenty of weight on him. He threw his left arm over the boy's chest, and stroking with the other arm, made for the shore. "Oh God, use me, use me," he prayed as the rescue became increasingly exhausting. He wasn't going to let the boy go, but knew he hadn't much left as they neared the shore.

But somehow he got the boy into water shallow enough for people to wade out and take his hand. He was so debilitated he almost needed help himself as he staggered back into the arms of his wife, people clapping him on the back and shaking his hand.

Flopping down, he thought his heart was going to explode, but he soon regained his physical equanimity...and that was the end of it.

Now the questions: did the vow begun 20 years ago in that Westfield Avenue bus impel our man so much later to act as he did? And what impulse started him running and conditioning months before? There was no way he could have pulled it off without that behind him. Was this somehow all part of a grand design from start to finish, ending in the saving of a boy's life? Something perhaps to mull over in the twilight of life?

We're meant to be gaining perspective, perhaps even knowledge at this endgame stage, but the big questions—and answers—still remain elusive and doubtless always will.

## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Please consider signing up to host coffee hour for one Sunday in June or July. As a reminder, there is no coffee during the summer months—just iced tea, lemonade and water.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved. If you have any questions, contact Laurel Smith at [zoeysmom1@gmail.com](mailto:zoeysmom1@gmail.com) or (609) 714-0091.

### Coffee hour hosts for June

	7:45	10:15
June 7		
June 14		Geri Blum
June 21		
June 28		

Many spots available in June and July. See Laurel Smith to sign up or email her at [zoeysmom1@gmail.com](mailto:zoeysmom1@gmail.com).

## Cancer Survivors Weekend

St. Peter's will be involved in many events during the weekend of June 6-7. You can help in a number of ways:

1. On June 6th, St. Peter's will have a team taking part in the Medford Relay for Life event. Join the team or contribute to a member of the team.
2. Help provide lunch for the Cancer Survivors lunch on June 6th by donating desserts or Snapple iced tea and/or help set up, serve or clean up for the luncheon.
3. Purchase a Luminary to honor a loved one.
4. Attend and invite others to the Cancer Survivor's Day service at 10:15 at St. Peter's on June 7th.

For more information, contact Cindy Cullen at [cynthiacullen@verizon.net](mailto:cynthiacullen@verizon.net).

## Run and Pray 5K

By Michael Krug

The first ever St. Peter's Episcopal Church "Run & Pray 5K" is being held on Saturday, June 20th, 2015! It will start at St. Peter's, go through the Christopher Mill neighborhood, and finish back at the church. Start time is 8:30 a.m. immediately following race day registration. We need runners of all ages and skill levels to register online as soon as possible. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. This is a community outreach event that will be as successful as this parish makes it. Online registration is available at [lmsports.com](http://lmsports.com). If you are not a runner, there is a "1 Mile Fun Run" option available so you can join in on the race day excitement. T-shirts will be given to the first 100 registrants. Refreshments will be served and free water ice vouchers will be given out from Rita's Water Ice. Awards will be given to the top overall Male and Female finishers; and the top three (3) finishers in each age group.

I am very excited to announce that Zinc Cafe has signed on to be the event title sponsor. Other sponsors include Cranston & Scafidi Associates, LLC, Great Times Day Camp, Medford Township Police Officers Association, Rita's Water Ice, and Vicious Cycle. We are still looking for sponsors if your business is interested in participating with this event.



Vol-

unteers are needed!!! Please let me know if you can help out on race day. We need help with registration, setting up the course, and handing out food and water.

Please contact me to volunteer or purchase a sponsorship. My phone number is 856-701-3429.



## PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



In preparation of the Bishop's visit on May 31st, Father Don and Sue Legnani talked to our children about the Bishop and some of the traditions regarding what he wears and carries. They even got to try on some vestments that had belonged to Bishop Van Duzer (*photos courtesy of Michelle Scarpulla*).



Children in Children's Chapel act out the words of the song *Jambo* (*photo courtesy of Tiffany Myers*):

You wake up in the morning and you sit up in bed,  
And you open your eyes, you sleepy head,  
Here's a little word that you can say  
To help you start the day.

Chorus:

Say Jambo. It means Hello.  
To Jesus, your best friend.  
Say Jambo. Hello.  
Say Jambo to Jesus every day.  
He'll listen when you pray.

# 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  
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*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.*

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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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