



The Hands and Feet of Our Lord

By Barbara Kelly

"Thank you does not begin to show my appreciation for your outpouring of Christian Love for the 'least of these.' Your actions show you are the Hands and Feet of Jesus Christ."

This heartfelt note to St. Peter's Church was written by the manager of the Code Blue shelter in Delanco. It also reflects my own gratitude for your tremendous response to the Code Blue donation drive. Our first three deliveries to the shelter consisted of nearly 200 items--including 44 pairs of underwear, 44 tubes of Chapstick and hand cream, 24 blankets, 22 hats and scarves, and 17 pairs of gloves. Numerous parishioners also contributed jackets, boots, and 8-hour hand warmers.

One generous parishioner donated cash. Another thoughtfully purchased many sets of toothbrushes and toothpaste. One loving person donated a dozen small stuffed animals and a soft new doll, along with a note explaining that "every child needs a cuddle."

The shelter at First Presbyterian Church averages 24 guests nightly. Everyone receives dinner, a safe and warm place to spend the night, and a hot breakfast before the shelter closes at 7 a.m.

The Delanco shelter is one of only three in Burlington County, and could not operate without contributions from many churches. Those in Riverside, Delanco, and Beverly have provided volunteer staff. Churches of all denominations in many towns--including St. Peter's, Medford--have responded with an outpouring of donations.

I am blessed and honored to belong to a congregation that is the "Hands and Feet of Jesus Christ." St. Peter's will continue the collection drive for as long as Burlington County continues to declare "Code Blue." Thank you all for your generosity.



March Calendar Highlights

Mar. 4 Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm

Mar. 5 Ash Wednesday, 6:45 am, 10 am, 6 pm, 7:30 pm

Mar. 9 St. Paul's Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.

Mar. 11 Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 14-16 Weekend with Mother Miriam

Mar. 24 Caps & Laps 1 p.m.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

On March 5 we begin the holy season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (for those who are to do so) and special devotion. Lent then has started. In the Service for Ash Wednesday there is an Invitation to a Holy Lent:

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.

I want to invite and encourage you to take this Lent seriously for the growth of your spiritual life. As a way of doing so, I am suggesting that you think of Lent as a pilgrimage with Jesus to his cross in Jerusalem on Good Friday. While you travel with Jesus, perhaps you could covenant with a family member, friend, or companion to make this pilgrimage together. Hold each other accountable, share your experiences. Plan to meet at church or for coffee to discuss your reading or prayer life; the things you have given up, and the things you have taken on. (There is a booklet in this newsletter with all of the opportunities for prayer, retreat, study, and alms giving at/through St. Peter's). Look over the opportunities we are offering at St. Peter's with your pilgrimage/prayer partner (soul friend) and plan how you will together journey through Lent. Perhaps you might choose a book to read and talk about together?

We can get so busy with our everyday life that we could miss the opportunity that Lent can provide us to grow spiritually. By covenanting with another, to hold each other accountable, to share the journey you will enrich each other's lives and keep on track. Perhaps in Eastertide we could have an education hour when we share what Lent was like for us, especially those who choose to pilgrimage with a friend.

"I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent..."

In Christ,

Fr. Don



KIDS' CORNER

Lent and Mite Boxes

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

Every year we distribute Mite Boxes to the Sunday School for Advent and Lent. I remember receiving one every year when I was a child and I still take one home for Advent and Lent. But why do we use them? Wikipedia gives this definition for what a Mite Box is and how it is used.

“The term **mite box** (also **alms box** or **poor box**) refers to a box that is used to save coins for charitable purposes. Contemporary mite boxes are usually made of cardboard and given out to church congregations during the **Lenten** season. The mite boxes are collected by the church and donations are given to the poor. Mite boxes are popular with children because they can fill them with small change and it teaches them the principle of giving to the poor. The Mite box giving promotes the spirit of contributing based on the intent to help others and not on the monetary amount.”

The term “mite”, not to be confused with the little bug, refers to the coin that a poor widow gave when she entered the Temple in Jerusalem (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4). When Jesus saw the donations made by rich men, He pointed to the poor widow and how she gave everything she had to her name, while the other people gave only a small portion of their own wealth.

In Jesus' time the small copper coin was called a *lepton* and it was the least valuable coin available at the time. There was no coin called a mite. This name comes from 17th century European currency where a copper coin was used by the poorest people, and only they could get away with giving so little since their status in society couldn't sink any lower.

This Lent the children and youth in our Sunday School will again receive Mite Boxes. The coins and paper money that are put in the boxes will be used for St. Peter's outreach to the country of Haiti and more specifically for a school run by an Anglican Church. The use of the mite box in our homes is meant to be a part of our spiritual discipline during the season of Lent. Children need to know that even though they may not be able to put a lot of money into the box, what they can contribute should be out of love and generosity.

Here are some suggestions for using the Mite Box in your home:

- Children as well as adults can use this as an opportunity to show thanks for the blessings in their life.
- Donate the money that is saved by giving up something like eating meat once a week.
- Children could take on an extra chore to earn a little money that they can donate.
- Always remember to pray for those who will receive the benefit of the offering we make from the bounty of our lives.



Find out more about Millennium Development Goals by going to www.episcopalrelief.org.

More information about this outreach to Haiti will be included with the Mite Boxes. Please take the time to read it and share it with your children.

Young Adult Fellowship -- In February, YAF went Ice Skating at the Igloo Rink in Mt. Laurel. A fun time was had by all. For March, Nancy Castiglia is organizing an outing to see the movie "Son of God". Stay tuned to the parish bulletin and Sunday announcements for details. YAF and J2A are also assisting at the Pancake Supper.

Dates to Remember

St. Peter's Annual Rummage Sale –

Save the Date!

On **Saturday, May 3rd**, we will have our annual rummage sale. So, if you're doing some spring cleaning, please save the following items for us:

- Glassware sets, dish sets, pots and pans, bakeware
- Home decorative items, area rugs, small appliances
- Bedding sets, blankets
- Clothing and shoes, especially children's
- Women's handbags
- CDs, DVDs

All donated items must not be more than gently used. Items we cannot accept include TVs and electronics, luggage and personal items, such as undergarments, socks and slippers.

We will begin collecting items in Williams Hall the week before the sale.

We will need **volunteers** to help unpack, sort, and set up tables that week. We will also need help the day of the rummage sale with checkout, cleanup and transporting unsold items to Good Will in Medford. This is a great event for high school students to get in hours for community service!

Please look for updates in the church bulletin as we get closer to the event!



Rummage Sale

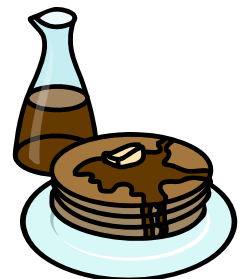
Lent in the Sunday School

On the first Sunday of Lent the Sunday School children will make Lenten pretzels as part of their preparation for this season. The lessons taught during Sunday School in Lent all lead up to the great mystery of Easter. The Easter story is a greater challenge to grasp than the birth of a beautiful baby, so it is with this in mind that the lessons are chosen to help our children wonder, and experience on their own level, the mystery of Christ's life, death and resurrection.



Pancakes Anyone???

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday March 4th 5:30-7 p.m. followed by Palm Burning and Compline. St. Peter's will host a traditional pancake supper of pancakes, sausage, applesauce and beverages. \$7 per adult; \$5 for seniors 62 and over; \$3 per child and children under 2 are free. Tickets will be on sale after church on February 9th, 16th, 23rd and March 2nd. We look forward to seeing you there!

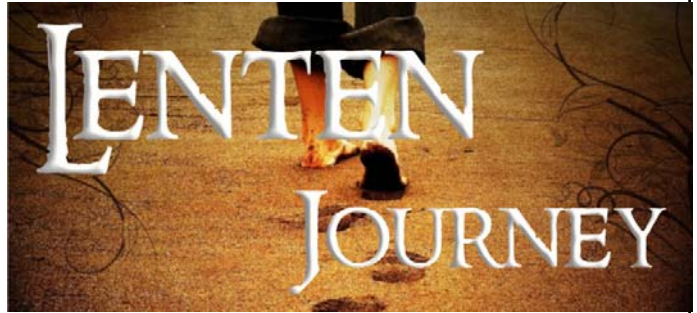


PARISH NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: MISSION WEEKEND WITH
MOTHER MIRIAM, CSM –

MARCH 14-16

Mother Miriam will be with us from Friday night March 14 through Sunday, March 16. We will begin with a Pot Luck Supper on Friday, followed by an introduction to the weekend, ending with a Taize Compline. On Saturday, March 15, there will be three presentations, discussion, and some silence. There will be a Devotional Instructed Mass at all three of the weekend Services. At 9:00 am on Sunday, March 16, Mother Miriam will lead a discussion entitled: It's Hard to be a Christian in America. Watch for further details in the March "Good News" and Sunday bulletins.



The last few years, we as a parish have been encouraged to adopt rules of life as individuals, families and a parish.

As part of our Lenten Journey this year, we will not be serving food at coffee hour. As a parish we will be journeying with Jesus through the 40 days of Lent by giving up our traditional food and donating instead to the Christian Caring Center so they can provide food for those in need.

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Finley Joyce Adinolfi, February 15th, daughter of Michael and Amy Adinolfi, granddaughter of Joyce DeMore.

WEDDINGS

None this month.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

William DeMore, February 1, son of Joyce DeMore.

Molly Gallagher, February 5, daughter of Ryan and Lauren Gallagher, granddaughter of Teddi Palmer.

Capital Campaign

St Peter's will be starting a capital campaign soon to repair the roof of the office area and the overhang of the office and Sunday school wing. More information will follow, but as you can see from the photos below, these repairs are greatly needed.



Photos courtesy of Benjamin Jones, Chair of Finance Committee

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

As of 1/31/14:

Income: \$24,734

Expenses: \$27,294

Net: -(\$2,500)

While we paid all major bills, we had to short the diocesan assessment by \$1,667. In addition we had a major snow plowing bill and will have another in Feb. We currently have a deficit budget. Please be generous in you offerings. If each one would increase their giving by \$20 per month, it would close our budget gap.

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM

Thank You to all those who donated items to the Weisman Rehabilitation Hospital, and to our Sunday School students who made beautiful St. Valentine cards that went along with two baskets of items. Kelly Wu coordinated this Intergenerational event again this year and also delivered the baskets and cards. She said that the items are always anticipated by the hospital staff (she is fondly known as the basket lady) and will brighten the lives of the patients.



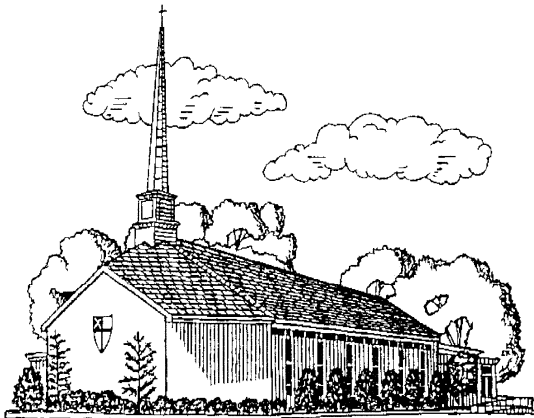
February 2nd was Boy Scout Sunday. Boy scouts of all ages were blessed by Father Don.

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
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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.



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.

March 2014

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