



Acolyte Festival

On February 14, five acolytes, Elizabeth Adler, Matthew Adler, Charlotte LaRue, Danny LaRue and Michael Scarpulla, traveled to the Cathedral in Trenton with Father Don and Jack Hobson, Acolyte Master for the annual Acolyte Festival. Upon arrival, acolytes were treated to a light breakfast of donuts and fruit. Participants could attend two workshops throughout the day. For the first workshop, all of the acolytes attended the Scavenger Hunt in which they were given a list of clues to decipher and find their way around the Cathedral.

Following this workshop, they feasted on hoagies, cookies, candy and more. In the afternoon workshop, some of the acolytes attended a team building and games workshop. Elizabeth Adler's highlight was in this workshop where she learned how to play a human version of "Hungry, Hungry Hippos." Two other acolytes attended a workshop called "Practically Speaking" where they learned facts and information about the church, and how the Episcopal church started. Michael Scarpulla learned information important for acolytes, such as how the candelabra behind the altar (to the left and the right of the priest and Eucharistic Ministers) should be lit and extinguished. The candles should be lit from the cross outwards, because Christ shines the light on the world. The candles should be extinguished in reverse.

Following the workshops, all in attendance participated in a large processional prior to worshipping together. The acolytes really enjoyed their day and even found time for some basketball in the basement of the Cathedral.

Thank you to Jack Hobson and Father Don for taking the acolytes to this wonderful event. Hopefully next year even more acolytes will be able to go.



Photo courtesy of Father Don



Photo courtesy of Kristine Adler

March Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

- Mar. 8 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.
- Mar. 11 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 13 Stations of the Cross for children, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 14 Lenten Retreat, 9– 2 p.m.
- Mar. 23 Caps & Laps, 1 p.m.
- April 2 Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- April 3 Good Friday, 12:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
- April 4 Great Vigil of Easter, 8:00 p.m.
- April 5 Easter Day, 7:45 a.m., 10:15 a.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

“Welcome to the 2015 Diocese of New Jersey Lenten Series! We hope you’ll find it a useful next step in our diocesan conversation about mission and discipleship. This series combines both concepts, with the goal of giving each participant an introduction to seeing what God is up to in the world (God’s mission and participating in it (joining in as disciples).” *2015 Lenten Series Introduction*

My guess is that most of us think of ourselves as “church members” rather than as “disciples.” At the end of the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus says to the eleven disciples “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. God therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18b-20, NRSV) Jesus doesn’t say anything about making church members but making disciples. You might wonder what the difference is?

I think that members see their participation as optional at all levels – attendance, finances, volunteering. One can be a good member or a bad member or anything in between. The motivating factor is how one feels on any given day. Some are active members, with all that implies, out of duty or habit, or even commitment. Some are inactive or weak members because of being turned off by someone, being slighted by the priest or another member. Some have found other things to do on Sunday morning that are more enjoyable – golf, yard sales, tailgating, sleep, family outing, etc.

Disciples on the other hand have found their life transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ. God is at the center of life, the lens by which all of life is seen and lived. A disciple knows that God is doing more for them than they can ask or imagine. Disciples know, therefore, that God is active in the world, redeeming people and creation, saving individuals from their sins; feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, visiting prisoners. You get the idea.

I have to admit all this language about mission and discipleship, while Biblical, is rather new in our church conversations. Only in the last thirty or so years have we talked about the “mission of the church” or the mission statement of a local congregation. But local congregation’s mission statements told the world what the people were going to do. Howard Hanchey (former professor of Pastoral Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary) wrote this “Mission-minded congregations: celebrate God’s presence and ministry in the here and now of everyday life, celebrate with worship that sets hearts on fire, and celebrate what goes on in the Sunday school classrooms of their children.Congregations marked by enthusiasm for ministry first of all set their sights on God’s ministry in their midst. They know how to identify it and they love to talk about it.”

I would like to invite you to become disciples of Jesus Christ, because: The church doesn’t have a mission – God does (God created the church to fulfill God’s mission).

In Christ,

Fv. Don

PS It is not too late to get on board with our Lenten Study – Sunday mornings 9-10 am or Thursday evenings (6:30 pm soup supper) 7-8:30 pm.

KIDS' CORNER

The Safe Church

By Sue Legnani, Christian Formation Director

We all should feel safe at St. Peter's. Churches are supposed to be safe for adults and children. However, we all have a responsibility to keep our church safe. Staff members and those who work with our youth are required to attend a training that is led by certified counselors in order to be covered by the church insurance. The six hour training covers both sexual harassment and abuse. Much of the information is geared toward children and youth, but it also covers adults.

I've learned that the best thing to have for a safe church is watchful eyes. Now I don't mean that we are watching each other with suspicious eyes expecting to see something amiss. I mean that we watch out for each other and make sure that we are all kept safe while we are in the building and when we are together out of the building.

What can we do to make our church building safe for everyone? Let me suggest some things:

Our Sunday School teachers are required to teach with another adult in the room or to have the door open if they are teaching alone. When Sunday School is over and the children go to church or to chapel the Sunday School wing is empty. There should be no children in that part of the building once Sunday School is over because there is no adult supervision.

We have many doors in our church building and these doors are all open on Sunday morning. We want people to have easy access to the building, but it also opens the prospect for anyone to come in. We want to believe that everyone who comes in the building is friendly and will not want to harm any of us. However, just as we wouldn't allow our child to go the restroom in a mall by themselves, I don't think children should leave the church or chapel to go to the restroom by themselves. Making a "pit stop" before church or chapel will help with this situation.

Church can be long for young children so sometimes they need a timeout from the liturgy and that's OK. There are bulletins for the children with activities for them based on the weekly gospel reading. There are crayons and "magna doodles" for them as well. There is one other resource called What Are We Doing?, an 8 1/2 x 14 sheet of paper folded up into a small book. This paper, when unfolded, allows a child to follow the service and draw what they see happening during the service. Keeping children engaged in the service will make it less tempting to leave the church to go looking for snacks or other diversions. If any of us have to leave church, let's do it quietly and use the side aisles when possible. The Nursery is always available too.

Running in the building is never a good idea. I know that with all the bad weather we've had any open space makes it tempting to use up excess energy. However, we have to remember that there are other people around us and that running can cause unnecessary accidents for both children and adults.

We all have the responsibility to watch out for each other. We all have the responsibility to respect each other's space and to make this building a holy space. Perhaps that is something we can take on this Lent.

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

Lent has begun, that time of year when we reflect on our lives, endeavor to change for the better, and be penitent for our sins. It's also a time of denial, hence the customs of 'giving up something for Lent'.

Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday that precedes Ash Wednesday, has passed. Once again Kudos to Laurel Smith and the youth who made us a delicious pancake supper with sausage, applesauce and a drink. Perhaps it's time for a small history lesson about Shrove Tuesday and Lent. The following information was taken from 'The Portly Padre,' All Saints' Episcopal Church, Carmel, California.

The Epiphany season ends at midnight the day before Ash Wednesday. The day is known as Shrovetide in England, Fastnacht Day in Germany, Fastens-E'en in Scotland, and Mardi Gras in France. Shrove and shrift mean penance and confession.

Various customs mark this transition in church seasons, although their religious significance has tended to be obscured. Shrove Tuesday has for centuries been observed in England and America by eating pancakes. These, before our days of mixes and food preservation, were a way to use up animal fats and foods forbidden during Lent. References in literature note the custom. Shakespeare mentioned Shrove Tuesday in "All's well that ends well."

In Germany fastnachtucken (fast night cakes or doughnuts) are eaten. In Scotland a popular dish is 'crowdie,' made of oatmeal, milk and butter.

It was customary for children to ask for gifts this day. One variant of rhymes they recited as they begged was:

*Knick-Knock, pan's hot,
And we be come a-shroving.
Bit of bread and a bit of cheese,
That's better than nothing.
Open the door and let us in.*

Pancake or fitter bells were rung in the morning in England. Pancakes might be tacked on school doors. An old verse begins, "Pancakes and fritters, says the bells of St. Peter's" or "Let glad Shrove Tuesday bring the pancake thin, Or fritters with apples stored within."

Finally: Even in our messes, God blesses.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day



Thank you to Laurel Smith and her pancake crew for another wonderful pancake supper! The hall was packed. The pancakes were delicious, the waiter service was phenomenal and the company was delightful. Great job to everyone who assisted!



Tim Montgomery was one of the pancake chefs.

DEACON'S BENCH



The Deacon's Bench – What Do You Know about ERD?

Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Episcopal Relief and Development and learn more about it by taking this “open-website” quiz. All of the answers to this quiz can be found by exploring the Episcopal Relief and Development website at

www.episcopalrelief.org. Correct answers will be given in our April newsletter.

Names of those who complete the quiz with 100% accuracy will have their names published in our May newsletter and will have a donation made in their names to Episcopal Relief and Development.

The ERD Quiz

1. At its founding in 1940, the organization we now know as Episcopal Relief and Development was called what?
2. What was its primary mission at the time of its founding?
3. ERD received its present name in 2000. Why?
4. Two years after Hurricane Mitch (2001) members of St. Peter's helped build a new church in an Episcopal Relief and Development village in Honduras. More recently, we raised funds to help stop the spread of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa as part of another ERD project. Name either the village or the anti-malaria program.
5. ERD finds its mandate in the words of Jesus. Where can these words be found? Extra points if you can give the scripture citation.
6. Name ERD's four core program areas.
7. ERD works throughout the world, assisting the poorest of the poor. In how many countries is ERD active at the present time?
8. ERD is actively supporting long-term disaster recovery in three areas within the United States. It is presently assisting those affected by Hurricane Sandy. Name two other places where ERD supports long-term disaster recover in the USA.
9. What percent of each donor dollar goes directly to work in the field?
10. The “What You Can Do” tab on ERD's website has how many drop downs? What are they?
11. Episcopal Relief & Development offers Christian Formation programs for children, youth and families and others, to support Episcopalians as they “continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,” “proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ” and “seek and serve Christ in all persons.” Name two of the programs offered.
12. What is “Gifts for Life”? Name two other ways to support the work of ERD.
13. Episcopal Relief and Development works on its own, never cooperating with other agencies. True or False?

THE END. Please support God's work through Episcopal Relief and Development.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

St. Peter's parish is a growing, vibrant Christian community. We have high ambitions for St. Peter's outreach to the community. We welcome you and your family to participate in our 1st Father's Day Weekend - Run & Pray 5K

Father's Day Weekend Run & Pray 5k & 1 mile Fun Run

Saturday, June 20th, 2015

7:30 a.m. - Registration

8:00 a.m. - 5k and Family Fun Run

**Presented by: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
1 Hartford Road, Medford, NJ**

- **First 100 registrants receive a Race Tee Shirt**
- **Medals will be awards to the top finishers**
- **Shaded, flat course in Christopher Mill**
- **Online Registration opens in March**
- **Volunteers needed**
- **Sponsorships are available to businesses and community organizations. Contact Michael Krug for details at (856) 701-3429**



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
One Hartford Road
Medford, New Jersey



PARISH NEWS

Parishioners at St. Peter's were asked what they are giving up or taking on for Lent. Here is what they said:

- Adult Education Study
- 3030 Challenge
- I am vowing to be more intentional and inner focused, which will include mindless snacking with no purpose other than relieving mid-afternoon tedium.
- Giving up Beer and Taking on Wine!
- I am taking on reading (and hopefully attending) Morning and Evening Prayer each day during Lent.
- Giving up Candy and Coca Cola Taking on 40 Acts of Kindness
- Giving up alcohol
- Attending adult education on Sunday mornings (3 people said this)
- Daily meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development
- Giving up chocolate
- Hoping to get to at least one Stations of the Cross this Lent with my kids!
- I will attend a healing service at St Michaels Church, Trenton on my lunch hour every Wednesday.
- The Joyce Meyer 3030 challenge (www.joycemeyer.org)
- 40 bags in 40 days decluttering (<http://www.whitehouseblackshutters.com/40-bags-in-40-days-2014/>)

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.

Cost: \$10.00 to cover lunch. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office at office@stpetersmedford.org or at 609-654-2963. If you need childcare during the retreat please contact Sue.

History of Haiti, part 1

By Grayson Myers

Internal instability and economic tribulations characterize Haiti's history. The country sits on the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic. Its capital is Port -Au- Prince. In 1492, Spain colonized Hispaniola, first claimed during the voyage of Christopher Columbus. As was similar to other European colonies across the Americas, harsh treatment by their overseers and exposure to European diseases killed off most of the native population, and African slaves were imported to bolster the labor supply. The waning of the Spanish Empire during the 17th century resulted in control over the colony passing to the French (who already possessed a foothold on the island).

Under French control, Haiti became one of the most prosperous colonies in the Americas. Its primary exports were coffee and sugar, of which Haiti contributed a significant share of Europe's supply. Its economic fortunes were predicated on slave labor and brutal treatment of slaves. This resulted in numerous uprisings throughout the 1700's and divisions in Haitian society. With the outbreak of the French Revolution in the 1790's, domestic strife consumed France, in addition to wars against foreign powers opposed to the Revolution. In Haiti, rebellion broke out in 1791. By 1801, former slave Toussaint Louverture gained power. The end of the French Revolution resulted in Napoleon gaining power in France, and his attempts to expand French power throughout Europe and the world. In 1802, Napoleon sent French troops to retake the island. Louverture attempted to negotiate with the French, but was instead arrested and imprisoned in France, where he eventually died. War between the Haitian rebels and French forces continued, with Jean Jacques Dessalines. Disease devastated French forces, and British control of the oceans cut off their supply lines to France. Dessalines defeated the French and declared Haiti (up until now known as Saint-Dominique) an independent republic at the beginning of 1804, but changed his mind later that year and declared himself Emperor instead.

(part 2 to follow next month)

News from Haiti

Report from the Haiti Partnership Program

In a recent email, the Rev. Dr. Kesner Ajax, Director of the Haiti Partnership Program, reported the following:

In order to provide more leadership, support, and attention and inspire continued growth of the church in Haiti, the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti has begun a project to establish a new diocese in the northern region of Haiti.

Fifteen people, both lay and clergy, will be attending this summer's General Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The School of Nursing in Leogane, Haiti, celebrated its tenth anniversary in January. Next year, the Bishop Tharp Business and Technology Institute will celebrate its tenth anniversary in April. Both institutions are supported by the Episcopal Church of Haiti; the Bishop Tharp Institute was founded by Episcopal Relief and Development in 2005.

DID YOU KNOW?



Haiti is the second oldest independent nation in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States.

GOOD FRIDAY NOON SERVICE WITH MEDFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Medford Methodist Church and St. Peter's will jointly offer a Noon Day Service on Good Friday (April 3) at St. Peter's. The clergy (4 in total) of both churches will offer short meditations on the Passion according to St. John. There will be opportunity for silence prayer as well as community prayer. There will be Hymns appropriate to the day. The offering at that Service will go to the Christian Caring Center. This Service will be in addition to our usual Good Friday Service where our youth present Live Stations of the Passion and the rest of the Good Friday Liturgy.



HOPE
begins with you.



LEADERS **SAVE LIVES**

We are giving away \$14,000 in scholarships!

Did you know that high school and college students provide about 20% of all blood donations? However, when school is out on break, young donors often do not donate. The Red Cross is looking for student leaders who want to help change that statistic and help support the blood supply this summer.

By hosting a blood drive one of these 100 days of summer, you are helping ensure a stable blood supply exists. Invite your friends to donate while school is out of session. You could earn a gift card and be entered to win a college scholarship!

To be eligible, a student blood drive coordinator must:

- Be 16 to 24-years-old.
- Coordinate a blood drive between June 1 and August 31, 2015.
- Collect at least 25 pints of blood and achieve 100% of the blood drive goal.

If you are interested in hosting a drive, please visit www.redcrossblood.org/leaderssavelives for more information or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

EARN A GIFT CARD!

25-59 pints	\$50
60-99 pints	\$100
100+ pints	\$200

WIN A SCHOLARSHIP TO HELP WITH YOUR EDUCATIONAL COSTS!

25-59 pints	\$1,000 - six drawings
60-99 pints	\$1,500 - two drawings
100+ pints	\$2,500 - two drawings



**American
Red Cross**

Services of Holy Week 2015

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

March 30, 31, April 1 9:00 AM Morning Prayer (Memorial Chapel)

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist (Memorial Chapel)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 9:00 AM Morning Prayer (Memorial Chapel)

6:30 PM Agape Meal*

7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Washing of Feet; followed by Stripping of the Altar.

8:00 PM Watch** begins in Memorial Chapel (until 7:00 PM Friday)

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 12:00 PM Joint Service with Medford Methodist Church

7:00 PM Liturgy of Good Friday: Live drama of Stations of the Passion by St. Peter's youth; the Solemn Collects; Veneration of the Cross; and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 4 9:00 AM Liturgy of the Word

There will be no 5 pm Eucharist. Please plan to attend one of the following Easter services.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER***#

April 4 8:00 PM Holy Eucharist- The first Eucharist of Easter Day, bring bells or chimes.

EASTER DAY

April 5 7:45 AM Easter Eucharist#

10:15 AM Easter Eucharist, Releasing of the Alleluia, Children's Easter Procession, Flowering of the Cross#

* Please sign up to bring: soup, cheese, bread and butter, fruit juice, wine, and fruit.

** Please sign up to keep watch over the Sacrament for one hour between the end of the Maundy Thursday Liturgy and the Good Friday Liturgy ("Will you not watch with me one hour?")

*** Bring a bell for the Great Noise at the Easter Proclamation.

Children and adults should bring their Lenten Mite Boxes or Coin Folders to the Easter Services.

This month's issue of St. Peter's Good News includes an envelope to enable you to make an offering in memory of loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for God's gracious action in your life. Funds received will be used to beautify the church and chapel for the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Day.

Please bring or mail your Flower Offering envelope to St. Peter's by March 27 for the names of your loved ones to be published in the Easter bulletins.

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM

Valentine's Day Multi-Generational Project : A Great Success

By Kelly Wu

On February 8th the children of the Sunday school program came together in Williams Hall with other parishioners to participate in a multi-generational outreach project. The children created unique and beautiful Valentine's Day cards for patients at Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital.

A huge festive box full of donated gift items was adorned with these cards and delivered to the hospital on Tuesday, February 10th. The recreational therapist, Erica, was happy to accept our Valentine's Day basket and will be sending a handmade thank you card to us.



The gifts are being enjoyed by the children as the days pass slowly. The cards were distributed to the patients and also used as decorations for the general activity room.

I want to thank all of you that donated the gift items, activity books, and stuffed animals. I also want to thank Sue Legnani for organizing the collection.

This was the fifth year for this project, and every year you all come through with generosity, time, effort, and caring. The staff at the hospital continues to look forward to our basket each year and is familiar with our church. This is truly what outreach is all about. Thank you to you all.



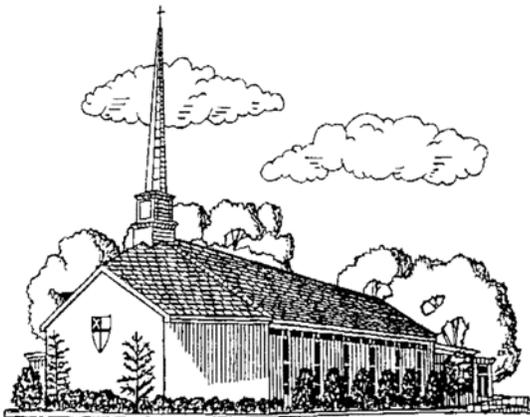
US Club Soccer announced the id2 National Selection team roster for the 2015 International Tour to Argentina. Eighteen elite boys were selected, and Donovan Wu from St. Peter's was one of them. Players were selected based on extensive scouting and training camps. Appointment to this team is a true accomplishment. Donovan was chosen based on technical ability, creativity, and personality. This id2 program is Olympic Development Program approved by the United States Olympic Committee and the U.S. Soccer Federation. The team has a trip to Argentina February 28 to March 11. In addition to competing against elite South American teams, Donovan will experience culture of the area, watch professional games, and train in some of the country's best facilities. The players represent nine states in different regions of the country. Donovan feels very fortunate to have been picked for this experience and looks forward to playing with his fellow teammates from around the country. Congratulations, Donovan! We'll be praying for you back here at St. Peter's.

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>
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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 2015

Acolyte Festival.....	1
From Pulpit to Pew.....	2
Kids' Corner.....	3
Body & Soul.....	4
Deacon's Bench.....	5
St. Peter's 5K.....	6
Parish News.....	7
Haiti.....	8
Red Cross.....	9
Holy Week Services.....	10
Photo Album.....	11

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