



Throwback: J2A Goes to Washington

Submission courtesy of Leslie Haines



“The J2A class had an amazing trip to Washington D.C. Over the three-day weekend we had great experiences such as the Grate Patrol... During the trip we also had many responsibilities. We had to find our way to the Metro and to restaurants while carrying our own bags. We also went to the Holocaust Museum, which really opened our eyes. All in all, our Urban Adventure was great.”

Andrea Haines

“I thought the Urban Adventure was an amazing and moving experience, especially the Grate Patrol. It was very different to see people just lying on the sides of the streets as their home. Everyone in Washington D.C. was so nice and caring, and I am so glad I got the opportunity to go!”

Beckie McCammitt

“The best part of Urban Adventure was the Grate Patrol and the Holocaust Museum. The Grate Patrol was fun because we made stops to feed the homeless. I found a homeless couple living in an alley. The Holocaust Museum was fun, because it was historically accurate to the last detail. It should teach us to never let genocide happen again.”

Jamieson Smith

“This trip was a great experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Not only did we learn how to walk around town, cities, etc., but we also learned how to really do things on our own and how to survive, our most important lesson.” *Jim Erskine*

“I thought that the whole experience was great. I enjoyed myself and would go back. I thought we did many great activities and it kept me interested.” *Taylor Warne*

“My favorite part of the Urban Adventure was taking the Metro and the train for the first time. I learned how to get my Metro pass and how to figure out what route to take. I also enjoyed getting to know the other kids from St. Paul's.” *Haley Clark*

Originally published in the March 2007 Edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter:

March Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

Mar. 11 St. Paul's Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.

Mar. 14 Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 25 Palm Sunday

Mar. 29 Agape Meal, 6:30 pm, Maundy Thursday HE, 7:30 pm

Mar. 30 Good Friday, 7:30 pm

Mar. 31 The Great Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm

April 1 Easter Day, 7:45 and 10:15 am

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

St. Peter's Wardens, Vestry, and Rector met on retreat, with Canon Rob Droste (our Diocesan Canon for Congregational Development), on Saturday February 3. This was the third retreat with Canon Droste over the last two years. He has been helping us see and respond to the new landscape in which the church finds itself today. We began with Morning Prayer, Canon Droste showing to the group that it only takes about 15 minutes to say. Additionally, he highlighted the following prayer for Mission found on page 101 of the Book of Common Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen. He suggested that St. Peter's next Rector should be one who would help you fulfill that prayer.

We discussed "leadership for the church that's coming" and the challenges and fears that that presents. While our discussions were about the future of St. Peter's, it was also about my (Fr. Don's) retirement. We then began to brain storm on ways to confront the challenges and fears. First and foremost is our need to pray, not just in general, but targeted prayers for specific issues. Out of that came our need to "Trust God", that we will be alright. God loves St. Peter's, has been faithful to this congregation in the past, and will continue to be faithful. To "Trust God" is to discern the Priest that God wants for St. Peter's. It will be less of "me" or "we", and more of "God". We will need to be supportive of each other in this process, as Vestry member to Vestry member, and Vestry to congregation, and congregation to Vestry.

Communication will be a very important ministry going forward – communicating with each other and with the congregation. Change is inevitable, just by my absence change will take place. We will need to be open to failure and change, to try new and sometimes crazy things. There will be the need for all of us to take on more responsibility for the ministry of St. Peter's.

There were some action steps that the Vestry will be taking in the near and far future. One such was to meet with the Bishop (which took place on Shrove Tuesday, February 13). You will hear more about that meeting and the decisions the Vestry needs to make as a result.

There were a several phrases that caught my attention and imagination from that day:

YOU WANT THE PRIEST THAT GOD WANTS

GOD LOVES ST. PETER'S

GOD'S WILL , NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, NOTHING ELSE.

And finally, overarching all that was said, prayed, and experienced was the fact, the charge, and the hope: TRUST GOD and let our actions flow from that trust. We will just how we are trusting by how we are acting.

Faithfully,

Fr. Don

Church & Home

By Sue Legnani

Lent and Mite Boxes

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 Redemption School, a school run by the St. Basil Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Haiti. 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.

Use the Lent 2018 Calendar: 40 Days with Redemption School to learn about Haiti the country where the school we support is located.

Sue Legnani
Director of Christian Formation

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

The Lenten season is upon us once again. And, once again, I try to think of something I can 'give up' for Lent. So, I'm thinking should I give up chocolate? I'm not really a chocoholic so I don't know if that would teach me self-discipline.

How about Coffee? Not sure I would stick by that resolve and I only drink iced coffee anyway.

So, I thought, how about adding something instead of giving up something? In other words, how about if I do something every day that I should do but I put it off because that's just easier? I'm thinking about daily prayers. I do some morning prayers each day anyway, which works out well for me. I say them when I stay outside with my dog each morning.

But, I tell clients and other people that keeping a gratitude journal is a great idea. So why wouldn't it work for me?

Every evening before bed, I'll write down what good thing happened that day and what things I'm grateful for. What did God do for me today? This is something I've thought about but never got the motivation to really do. So, after much thinking and wondering, I've decided that that will be my self-discipline for this Lenten season. And maybe, just maybe, I'll continue doing it so that next year I'll have to think about something else!!!

And finally: The grand essentials to happiness in this life are:

Something to do
Something to love and
Something to hope for.

Dates to Remember

March 16th: 7 pm Stations of the Cross for Children and Youth.

This is a child-friendly service for Lent. Please join us for this shortened Stations of the Cross service that helps us prepare for the mystery of Easter.

March 18: 9 AM Family Service in the Chapel.

Sunday School for Rite 13 and J2A
10 AM Sunday School for grades Pre-K to Grade 5

There will no classes or Children's Chapel on Easter Day, April 1st or Sunday, April 8th.



Mark
Your
Calendar

DEACON'S BENCH

By Deacon Helen M. Orlando



Make Time for Lent

I am writing to you on the Saturday after Ash Wednesday. Three days ago, with you, I heard “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.” Three days ago, I knelt before God as Father Don marked my forehead with ashes, reminding me of my absolute dependence on God with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Three days ago, I vowed to “observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.” (Quotations from the Ash Wednesday liturgy, BCP p. 265)

That was the morning of Ash Wednesday. In the afternoon, I dropped by the grocery store for a gallon of milk and found myself face-to-face with rows of chocolate eggs filled with coconut cream. I determinedly passed by bunches of tulips offered for sale so that I could make them part of my celebration of new life on Easter Day, only to arrive home to find my house adorned with three huge bunches of fresh flowers sent to my mother-in-law in celebration of her birthday. I spent most of the next day scraping clean, breaking up, and melting down wax from old Paschal Candles in order to make a new Paschal Candle. It feels as if life is conspiring to rush me right through Lent to Easter. Can you relate?

It would be a shame to give in to the impulse to ignore the penitential season of Lent in the rush to Easter. To do so would be to give up one of the church’s greatest gifts to us as Christians. Lent offers us the chance to deliberately separate from the world for a time in order to focus on our relationship with God, to appreciate who God is and what God has done for us, and to more deeply experience the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

Fasting is an obvious way to separate from the world and focus on our hunger for God. Try giving up something you will really miss. Each time you pass up that “something,” remind yourself that you are doing so in order to create a God-shaped space in your soul and invite God to fill it. Make time to examine how you live your life. Are you living up to the vows made at your Baptism? Try praying by sitting quietly to listen for God’s voice. Respond in silence or with your own words, use the wealth of prayers in the Book of Common Prayer, or join with others to read Morning or Evening Prayer. Let yourself experience Jesus’ passion and death by walking the Stations of the Cross.

“Read and meditate” on the “Servant Songs” (Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; and 52:13—53:12) and at least one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. Take advantage of the several educational opportunities offered at St. Peter’s this Lent just for you. Practice self-denial in order to use those resources to alleviate the plight of those in need. Perhaps one of those resources could be your time and attention used to speak up for justice in this world where so many are enslaved by the many injustices built into our society.

If you haven’t yet made a deliberate start to your Lenten observance, make time to start now. It’s never too late to open yourself to the God who made us, loves us, and came to us in the person of his Son to die and rise again, that we might have life in him.

May your Lent be Holy and your Easter be Joyous.
Deacon Helen

PARISH NEWS

Easter Communion - We invite each of you to gather in worship at any of our Easter services (including the Easter Vigil), but realize that some of you may be unable to attend due to illness or infirmity. If this is the case for you or for someone you know, please contact Deacon Helen by leaving a message at the church office (609-654-2963) or by emailing her at denhelen@stpetersmedford.org. During Eastertide, St. Peter's clergy will be visiting and bringing Holy Communion to all of our known homebound and ill patients and will be happy to visit you or any other parishioner in need.

Thank You to all those who donated items to the Weisman Rehabilitation Hospital, and to our Sunday School 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 assured me 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. The second basket was given to Nemours and taken by our own Dr. Beckie McCammitt who works there as a therapist.

Lent in the Sunday School - On March 4th 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.

Easter Egg Hunt - We need donations of small, wrapped candies for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Day. Donations can be placed in the bin in the Narthex until Sunday, March 18th. No gum please.

S.O.A.R. Meeting - S.O.A.R. meeting coming on Tuesday March 13th. Join us at 1PM to listen to Richard Lechner, manager Lechner Funeral Home, for information about planning a funeral, either your own or for a loved one. Something nobody wants to think about but something that will have to be done, hopefully in many years to come. Things you can do now in preparation for when the time comes. See you there!

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

None

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

From the Vestry

By Beverly Scollay, Vestry Liaison

Hospitality is greeting, sharing, and caring and is firmly rooted in our Christian heritage, and appears in the old and new testament.

They deal with grumbling, feeding the poor, sharing and helping one another:

Ecclesiastes:4 9-10 Leviticus 19: 33-34

Peter: 48- 9 Luke 14:12-14

Matthew 25: 42-46 Romans 12:13-20

In this light we at St. Peter's do a remarkable job. Is there room for improvement? Most assuredly!

We would like to form a Parish Life Committee , so that more people can be involved in the planning and share the work. Many hands make lighter work for all.

Some of the events we now do are: coffee hour; confirmation reception; valentine social; home coming picnic; advent brunch; pancake supper; other special events, (this year we have Fr. Don's retirement).

Are there any more possibilities? Indeed there are more, communication, more people involved, and new ideas are the answer.. How about the men take the coffee hour on Mother's day and the women take Father's day? Please call or email me to join me in this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted

Beverly Scollay
Vestry Liaison

Easter 2018

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30 12-1 PM

Ecumenical Service with Medford Methodist and Faith Presbyterian at St. Peter's.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS

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 21 for the names of your loved ones to be published in the Easter bulletins.



SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK 2018

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

March 26, 27, 28 9:00 AM Morning Prayer (Memorial Chapel)

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist (Memorial Chapel)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 29 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.

8:30 PM Watch** begins in Memorial Chapel (until 7:00 PM Friday)

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30 12-1 PM Ecumenical Service with Medford Methodist and Faith Presbyterian at St. Peter's.

7:30 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

March 31 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***#

March 31 8:00 PM Lighting of the New Fire, Liturgy of the Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist- The first Eucharist of Easter Day, bring bells or chimes.

EASTER DAY

April 1 7:45 AM Easter Eucharist#

10:15 AM Easter Eucharist, Releasing of the Alleluia, Children's Easter presentation, Flowering of the Cross, Easter Egg Hunt follows service.#

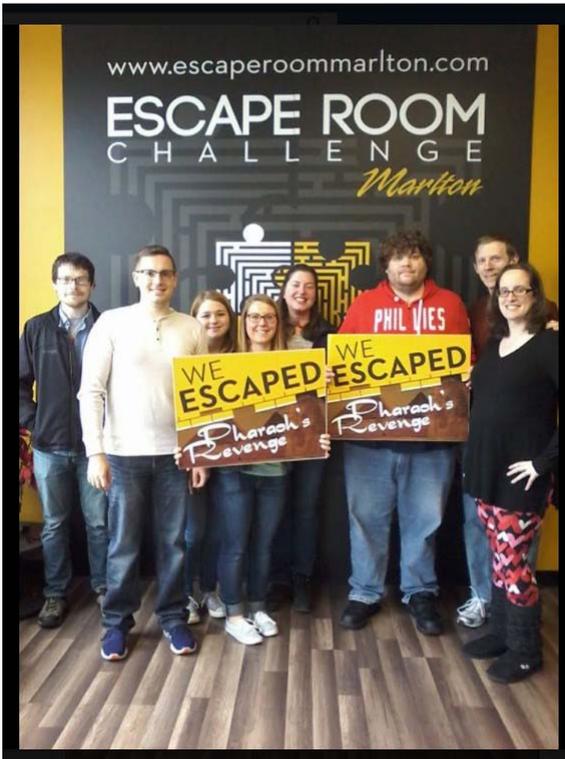
* Please sign up to bring: soup, cheese, bread and butter, fruit juice, wine, and fruit.

** 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.

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



Top Left: The Millennial Group went to, and completed an Escape Room in Marlton, New Jersey.



*Photos Courtesy of:
Michelle Scarpulla & Tiffany Myers*

Top Right: Ash Wednesday Peeps.

Mid-Left: Annual Pancake Supper.

Bottom Right: Some of the youth helped Mrs. Legnani hide the "Alleluia"



Valentine's Day



Photos Courtesy Of: Tiffany Myers

Boy Scout Sunday



*Photos Courtesy Of:
Anita Rickerhouser*

Top Left: Scouts bringing in Boy Scouts and United States flags and processing in at the start of the service.

Top Right: Former Scout Brendan Moore, our choir director and organist, addresses the congregation about Scouts and faith.

Mid-Left: Father Don presents the boy scouts with a pin.

Bottom Right: Former Boy Scout Roger (last name is escaping me) enjoyed talking with some scouts after the service



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

Brad Moore, Organist Lisa Miner, Parish Administrator 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.

March 2018

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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.

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