



St. Peter's says "Thank you" to Eleanor Myer!

On Sunday, October 25th, Eleanor Myer played the organ at St. Peter's one last time. After over ten years of music ministry, Eleanor is stepping down off of the organ bench. St. Peter's was blessed to have had her talent, energy and enthusiasm for these years, and we are very grateful for all she did to bring music to our parish. *Photos courtesy of Gena Krug, Jim Beard and Laurel Smith.*



May Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

- Nov. 5 Burlington Fall Convocation, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 8 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.
- Nov. 11 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14 International Gift Sale, 9:00 to 3:00 pm
- Nov. 23 Caps & Laps, 12:30 p.m.
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

The month of November is bookmarked by All Saints' Day on November 1 and Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday (this year November 26). It seems we are always looking too far down the road and fail to enjoy and appreciate the now. My brother posted on Facebook a photo of the Christmas section at a big box store last week. Lynn and I were in a department store and purchased (and had wrapped) some Christmas presents for great nieces and nephews (we've never done that before). I say these things, not because I think it is bad, actually it might be good for us to stretch out our Christmas spending. I say it because I believe we are in jeopardy of losing our ability to give thanks for what we have right now. Too often we don't appreciate something or someone until it/they are taken away from us.

St. Paul in his Epistle to the Ephesians writes: *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. (Ephesians 5:18-20)*

In the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the question is asked in the Catechism (page 857), "For what do we offer thanksgiving?" Answer: *Thanksgiving is offered to God for all the blessings of this life, for our redemption, and for whatever draws us closer to God.* Throughout the Prayer Book there are examples of prayers of thanksgiving: The General Thanksgiving in Morning and Evening Prayer; The Great Thanksgiving (also known as the Eucharistic Prayer, five of which are included); there are the Post Communion Prayers at the end of each Eucharist; the Thanksgivings in the "Prayers and Thanksgivings" section (pages 836-841), these include *A General Thanksgiving, A Litany of Thanksgiving, For the Mission of the Church, for the Saints and Faithful Departed, For the Nation, For Heroic Service, For the Diversity of Races and Cultures, For the Beauty of the Earth, For the Harvest, For the Gift of a Child, and For the Restoration of Health.*

Giving thanks is an antidote to coveting what others have, to feeling sorry for oneself. I said in a recent Sermon that if we own a house we have more wealth than 95% of the world's population. Let us give thanks. Recently, I heard someone say that we don't know what we need until we go to the mall or store, and they show us.

Of course, there always is that question of whether we are a glass half full or a glass half empty kind of person. Truth be told, all of our glasses are more than half full. Let us, this "season of thanksgiving" give God thanks for all that we are and have.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen. (1979 Book of Common Prayer, page 125)

In Christ,

Fr. Don

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

In the spring, Bishop (Chip) Stokes, organized a conference that was attended by 400 people from Episcopal churches around our diocese. At this gathering two speakers, John Roberto and David Anderson spoke about doing Christian formation in a different way than we have been doing it over the years.

What we face is that many of the congregations in our diocese (and around the nation) are so small that they do not have a Sunday School. St. Peter's is very fortunate to have a large number of families with children who attend Sunday School on a fairly regular basis. But is attending Sunday School alone enough to provide a sound faith formation? What can or should we be doing to help our children and youth "catch the faith" that we know is important to pass on to them?

One of the points that the speakers at the Bishop's Spring Conference shared that struck home with me is that parents are the first and most important teachers of faith for their children. Many of us grew up in a society where we were surrounded by people who shared the same religion, values and ethnic heritage. Some of us were smothered by it. That is not as true today. Families are more spread out and we don't always have them close by to show the next generation what is important to know and practice about our faith. Families are much busier now, and not as likely to attend church every week like they did in the 1950's and 60's. Churches are now facing the challenge of teaching the adults so they can teach the children at home when they can't be in church on Sunday.

So what can we do about this? Part of the Christian formation ministry of St. Peter's is to have cross-generation events to help all of us prepare for major Christian holidays. There is no agenda other than to have a chance for families, with and without children, to come together and share this time. As Christmas approaches in another month, the church begins its preparations with the season of Advent. We will use the Sunday morning Christian formation hour (9 – 10 AM) on **November 22nd** to make **Advent Wreaths** for our homes. The next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent so we'll be all ready! There will be materials to make the wreath and take-home materials to use with your wreath as you go through the season of Advent. Please watch for a sign –up sheet so we know how many supplies we need to have for you.

Come and join us for this Advent Event. Continue or start a new tradition that will help you or your children catch the faith!



Please join us for St. Peter's 2015 Christmas Pageant: *Jesus' Christmas Party*. Based on the book by Nicholas Allan.

What happens when Mary and Joseph show up at the Inn in Bethlehem and the innkeeper is kept up all night with visitors, bright lights and guest's coming and going? Well, it's a birthday party of course!



Our children will share this wonderful story at the 10:15 service on December 20th. First meeting for those who want to be involved will be November 15th after the 10:15 service.

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

What would happen if you woke up tomorrow and only had in your possession the things you thanked God for today? I read that quote somewhere and never forgot it.

Mark 5:19 says, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how he has mercy on you."

How many times have you done that? How often have I done that? How often have I stopped to thank God for the blessings he has bestowed? I know it's not as often as I should. It seems I only take time to thank Him when I've faced a situation in which the outcome was favorable to me. (not just when the Eagles win!)

As with all of us, we moan and complain when things side-rail us. Our car needs attention, which will drain our budget. We need a root canal, our property taxes have increased. We find out that a loved one has been diagnosed with an illness that will require lots of time and energy not to mention money. All these things, some big and some small, interfere with our lives.

During these times, we pray for good outcomes but how often do we thank God for the other things in our lives that are going well? It's not easy to do that. When things are out of our control, we're not happy campers.

Thanking God for the good things is a learned activity. Maybe all of us can re-learn to do this as we did when we were children; When our nightly prayers consisted of thanking God for the good stuff.

And finally: Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service

St. Mary of the Lakes Church

Sunday, November 22 at 7 pm

Join us as we gather together with our Christian brothers and sisters for an evening of praise and thanksgiving through song and prayer.

Dates to Remember

Christian Formation Calendar for November:

November 1 All Saint's Day

9:00 Sunday School and Adult Education: Transforming Questions led by Fr. Don

10:15 Children's Chapel

November 8

7:45 St. Paul's Breakfast, Camden

9:00 Sunday School and Adult Education: Transforming Questions led by Fr. Don

10:15 Children's Chapel

November 15

9:00 Sunday School and Adult Education: Transforming Questions led by Fr. Don

Christmas pageant organization meeting after 10:15 service. Parts may be assigned.

10:15 Children's Service. No Children's Chapel

November 22

9 – 10 AM cross-generational **Advent Wreath Workshop**: Families (of all ages, with and without children) are invited to Williams Hall at 9:00 to create your own Advent Wreath to take home for the season of Advent. All supplies needed to make the wreath will be provided. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we can plan for supplies. Children should report to their Sunday School classes before joining their parents in Williams Hall.

Adult Education: Transforming Questions led by Fr. Don

Christmas pageant music practice following the creation of the Advent Wreaths.

10:15 Children's Chapel

November 29: Advent I (Thanksgiving Weekend)

9:00 Sunday School and Christmas pageant music practice during Sunday School.

10:15 Children's Chapel

DEACON'S BENCH

Following is our first letter from Father Joseph Tancrel Diegue, the new Priest-in-Charge of Redemption School, St. Basil's Church, and the associated clinic, all in Gonaives, Haiti.

Dear Hellen,

I have received your e-mail and I would like to take the time to thank you sincerely. I am happy to learn that your parish St. Peter's Church is in partnership with Redemption's school. As you may already know, the institution of Redemption consists of: St. Basile Legrand's Church, Redemption's school and a medical clinic. The school has a total of 425 students from pre-k to High School. Thank you for praying for the people of St. Basile's church and the students of Redemption's school and I also want to let you know that we are doing the same thing on our side.

I am very happy to hear that you have \$2000 in your annual budget for Redemption's school. Thank you in advance because that will help us enormously. I will keep you posted on how the money is used. You can always send us the funds through the Haiti companionship program; however it's not the easiest route to take due to location. You can also send it to us also through Western Union, which has an office not too far from Redemption's school and I will alert the Companionship program as soon as it's available.

May God bless our partnership.

Fr. Joseph Tancrel Diegue, Priest in Charge

Dear Father Diegue,

All of us at St. Peter's appreciate knowing that you are praying for us, as we pray for all of you. Since the beginning of our companion relationship with Institution La Redemption, we have attempted to develop a personal relationship with your community. We found photos of your school and students on Facebook and have shown them to our parishioners. At Christmas, we sent cards and photos of our Sunday school children and some of our adult members to your school, but the mail never reached Fr. Chery. We will try harder this year! In the meantime, a good way to find photos of us is to go to our web page, which is www.stpetersmedford.org.

We would very much appreciate the chance to send a small group of 2-3 people to visit you early in 2016, perhaps in February, but would like to know whether such a visit would be convenient. I know that you are still adjusting to your new role.

Many of us are working hard to organize our first fair trade gift sale, which will benefit "La Redemption." Once that event is over, I should be able to send the remainder of our first year's pledge to you. Because our pledge funds are not budgeted, but raised by members of our congregation, we send funds as they become available. However, we are very open to special requests if we are in a position to help.

Faithfully,

Helen Orlando, Deacon, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Medford, NJ

**Get a head start on your Christmas shopping
at**

**St. Peter's International Gift Market
Saturday, November 14, 9am-3pm
Williams Hall**



**Items will also be available for sale following
all services the
weekend of November 14 and 15.**

**Do your Christmas shopping with us and help the children of Redemption School,
Haiti.**

All items for sale will be unique, handmade items provided by SERRV, an established non-profit, fair trade organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. Whether you purchase items available at our International Gift Market or place an order for special items, you will have your choice of a broad variety of merchandise from around the world. Look for stunning baskets, beautiful scarves, wall décor, dishes and serve-ware, children's toys, stocking stuffers, and Christmas décor of all kinds. Foodies will welcome our fair trade coffees, teas, chocolate, and soup mixes.

For more information, go to www.stpetersmedford.org or contact the church office at 609-654-2963.



Children of Redemption School

PARISH NEWS

Elected at the Annual Meeting for the Year 2015

Warden: Debbie Banecker – Two-year term as Warden

Vestry

Andrew LaRue – Three-year term, vestrymember

Chris McCrum – Three-year term, vestrymember

Lee Heine – Three-year term, vestrymember

Mandy Hunter – One-year term, vestrymember

Delegates to Burlington Convocation

Danielle Colaianni, Sue Legnani, Cynthia Sosnowski, Ben Jones, Jim Beard, Betty Jones

Alternates: Leslie Haines, Stephen Haines, Cindy Cullen

Deputies to Diocesan Convention

Mike Krug, Gena Krug, Cynthia Sosnowski,

Alternates: Mike Orlando, Jamieson Smith, Daryl Albury

Endowment Board: Brad Denn

Thank you, all for your service!

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

None

WEDDINGS

None

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Suzi Sprankle, October 1, 2015

Photo gifts and cards

Start Thinking Christmas Greeting Cards and Photo Gifts!

It's time to start thinking about that perfect family photo you want on your holiday greeting cards to send to family and friends this holiday season! FundPhotos®, now exclusively offering all Shutterfly® products (including Tiny Prints and Wedding Paper Divas), rewards St. Peter's with 5% from every purchase! Click on the FundPhotos link on the St. Peter's web site home page or go to www.FundPhotos.com and begin shopping! You can use photos in galleries from your existing account on Shutterfly or open a free Shutterfly account if you don't have one yet. This is a terrific way to support St. Peter's.

For every Shutterfly purchase made through the FundPhotos web site, St. Peters will be rewarded with 5% of the purchase price, which helps fund our summer Vacation Bible School program here at St. Peters. Remember, you MUST go to Shutterfly through the Fundphotos website and select St Peters as your donation recipient in order for Shutterfly to make the 5% donation. Any questions, call Cynthia Sosnowski – 609-602-2762.



Community Spiritual Breakfast

The 11th annual Medford-Vincentown Community Spiritual Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, November 25th from 7:30-9:00 am at the Medford Lakes Country Club. This is a wonderful morning of offering thanks for the blessings we have received, and a special way of starting the holidays.

Tickets are only \$16 and can be purchased in advance by contacting David Stow at 609-953-7600. For more information, contact Father Don.

Work of Pride

By Gregory Edwards

The fire line, our work of pride.
Half mile long, with smoke our
guide.
Led along Satan's finger
The charred remains of his victims
linger.
On sliding slope and three feet of
ash,
Leaning snags and pine tree crash.
The sawyers cry "Be'ware below",
As 100 tons begin to go.
As dust flies and embers glow
The tree settles as the fire grows.
The line made by backs of steel
As tools cleave, the line to seal.
The fury harnessed by the hand of
man,
The fire no longer roams the land.
Canadians, Americans together today
Halt the dragon where it lays.
Now it slumbers in its bed
Waiting the wind that will raise its head.



This poem was written by Gregory Edwards, Beth Edwards' son, while he was fighting a forest fire in Idaho.

Samaritan Healthcare & Hospice Seeks Volunteers to Provide Companionship for Clients & Families

Volunteers provide companionship to a patient so a family member can take a break or run errands. Volunteers talk with patients, read, write letters/cards, play cards/games, or share military experiences. Veterans needed to Visit Veterans! No experience required. Volunteers are required to attend Volunteer Orientation and four training sessions, listed below. All sessions are held at our administrative office: 5 Eves Drive, Suite 300, Marlton, NJ 08053. To learn more, please call Sally Cezo, Director of Volunteer Services, at 856-552-3235 or email scezo@SamaritanNJ.org

Orientation: December 1, 2015 from 10am or 6pm
Training Sessions from 9am-12noon on December 3, 8, 10, and 15.

Soles for the Harvest

In October Charlene and Maurice Marietti and Deacon Helen Orlando (see photo below) participated in the Soles for the Harvest 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run, sponsored by Holy Apostles, Allentown, NJ.



100% of our race proceeds went towards those affected by war, through the Wounded Warriors Project and Episcopal Relief and Development (for Syrian refugees).

Below, Charlene is pictured with Sgt Alfred Brenner. Sgt. Brenner is a Wounded Warrior Project member -- he and his bomb-sniffing dog were injured by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan exactly 5 years ago on the day of the race (Oct. 24). *Photos courtesy of Charlene Marietti.*



Earn money for St. Peter's

St.

Peter's is listed as a charity on Amazon. When you shop on Amazon, go through smile.amazon.com and list St. Peter's as the charity. It's quick and easy to set up and St. Peter's will get .5% of the purchase.



The Bishop Cup returns!

On a gloriously sunny and cloud-free Columbus Day, a spirited group of men from St. Peter's traveled north to celebrate the 11th Annual Trinity Cathedral Community Day at Mercer Oaks Golf Course.

The day began with an outdoor Eucharist and then we enjoyed a beautiful day on the links, the turning of the leaves, and the crystal clear Assunpink Lake. Led by our own Father Don Muller, our contingent also included Jason Ferguson, Brad Denn, Joe Kelly, Marty Banecker, Bob Cullen (who graciously shared Columbus Day with his own birthday), Ken Hoover, Don Powell, Steve Haines, and John Colaianni.

While it is rude to speak of a friend's advancing age in public, I will say that Bob Cullen, while he had a great round, didn't quite shoot his age. If he had, he would've been 22 under par for you mathematicians scoring at home. Happy belated Bob we love you buddy. Bob finished 2nd in the Long Drive competition, and we kept it in the family so to speak as our own Ken Hoover won 1st Place in the Longest Drive with a monster 300-plus yard bomb. Ken also won the Low Gross competition, with a 1 under 71, which was the best round shot among all 100 golfers, who represented Parishes all over our Diocese.

As a team, the Hoover-Powell-Haines-Colaianni quartet won the Bishop's Cup trophy for the third time in five years, thus ending our two year drought. With our personal best score of 7 under par, we held off a late charge from the good Episcopalians from Rumson (who have won the Cup 4 times and now are firmly in our sights). The whole team played really well, and we took turns making great shots to lift our teammates. Don, Steve and John all turned in scores below 80, and as a team we rolled in 9 birdies.

While no St. Peter's man came close to winning the "Chip Shot Contest", so named for our Bishop, Chip Stokes, we did nevertheless win a lot of other door prizes and auctions. Full disclosure, we did purchase a lot of raffle tickets. As a wise man named Steve Haines likes to say, "You can't win if you don't buy a ticket" (See photo in Parish Photo Album)

Episcopal Church Transition

From Katherine Jefferts Schori, retiring 26th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church



The Episcopal Church has come a long way in the last 10 years. We are no longer consumed by internal conflict over various social issues. We are clearer about who we are – a multinational church, with congregations in 17 nations, worshipping in countless different languages, thriving in international, immigrant, and multicultural contexts everywhere, and discovering the abundant life that comes in turning outward to love the neighbors nearby and far away. We are far more conscious about our vocation as partners in the mission of God to reconcile and heal the world, particularly shaped by the Five Anglican Marks of Mission. We are holding our identity as Episcopal Christians a bit more confidently, even in the midst of our diversity. We are also more willing to hold that identity lightly and gracefully in engaging other Christians and people of other religious traditions, searching for what we dream of in common – shalom, the Reign of God, a more just and peaceful world, with abundant life for all creation.

I am deeply grateful for what God has been up to in the midst of our journey together, and I look forward to seeing how this church of the middle way will continue to lead and partner as we travel the road home, into God's fullest dream of abundant life for all. I thank the people of this Church and beyond for your prayers over the last nine years – especially in recognition that we do this work together, never alone. May God bless the next chapter of The Episcopal Church's engagement in God's mission, as we go together into Galilee!

Installation of Bishop Michael Bruce Curry as 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church

The Holy Eucharist with the Installation of the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, Bishop Michael Bruce Curry, will occur on Sunday, November 1 at noon Eastern at Washington National Cathedral. The service will be live webcast here: <http://www.cathedral.org/>

Prayer for Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry:

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry and upon the congregations committed to his charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace: and, that he may truly please thee, pour upon him the continual dew of thy blessing.

Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.



PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



This is the winning team that brought the Bishop's Cup back to St. Peter's (see story on page 9): Father Don poses with the winning team of Don Powell, Steve Haines, John Colaianni and Ken Hoover. *Photo courtesy of John Colaianni.*



As is tradition at St. Peter's, Father Don blessed Halloween Costumes at the 10:15 Service on October 25th, and then Deacon Helen led the children out to the Memorial Garden to finish the blessing. Trick or Treat! *Photo courtesy of Gena Krug.*

Have you heard? There is now a youth group for our youth in grades 6th-9th. Using a guide called "Destination Unknown", the youth group journeys to a different secret location each month for fun, fellowship, and food. See photos below of our first two adventures. Even if you haven't been yet, it is never too late to join us! For more information, contact Michelle Scarpulla at 609-744-7089 or michellescarpulla@hotmail.com.



The first unknown destination was a bonfire at Indian Acres farm. The night included a wagon ride, corn maze, pizza and s'mores.



The second destination was a hill, so we went to Blueberry Hill in Gibbsboro, NJ.

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.

November 2015

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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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