



Serving Others

On Sunday, September 14th, a large group of volunteers from St. Peter's traveled to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden to cook and serve for those who showed up for the weekly breakfast. Many of the customers are homeless, mentally ill, living in poverty, or just in need of a hot meal and some fellowship. This Sunday they served 180 people, which is much more than the usual 70-100 they serve. It takes many hands to make food for that many. Below you see the assembly line of volunteers getting the plates ready to serve (photo courtesy of Ken Montgomery).



Volunteers from our parish cook breakfast at St. Paul's on the second Sunday of each month. If you would like to help out one Sunday, please contact Kelly Trimble for more information. For more photos from St. Paul's see page 9.

Later that same day, back at St. Peter's, another group of volunteers cooked for our own parish for our annual picnic. Below, Dave Smith and Cindy Cullen work the grill to prepare hamburgers and hot dogs for the crowd. Thank you to everyone who worked to make the parish picnic so much fun. For more photos from the picnic, see photos on page 10.



October Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

- Oct. 4 Holy Eucharist/Blessing of Animals 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 5 Annual Meeting, 9:00 am One Service, 10:00 am Breakfast, 10:30 meeting & Sunday School
- Oct. 8 Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12 St. Paul's Breakfast Program 7:45 a.m.
- Oct. 13 Office Closed
- Oct. 26 Blessing of Halloween Costumes
- Oct. 27 Caps & Laps 1:00 p.m.

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

During the month of October into early November, St. Peter's will be talking a lot about "stewardship." This is in preparation for each of us to prayerfully consider how much of our income God is calling us to give back for the spread of God's kingdom.

We are made in the image of God and God is a giver, a generous giver. God gives us life, breath, grace upon grace, forgiveness, mercy, and so much more. In response to God's generosity we are called upon to pass it on or "pay it forward". That is, we are meant to be a conduit [someone or something that is used as a way of sending something (such as information or money) from one place or person to another; Meriam Webster on line Dictionary] for God's grace, blessing, mercy, forgiveness, justice, etc. In our culture, money becomes one of the chief ways we express our wealth or lack thereof; and therefore, our generosity. Items are cheap, expensive, or moderate by how much they cost. If we have had good service at a restaurant we acknowledge that with a tip, perhaps more than the standard 20% if the service was exceptional. We do a good job at work and are rewarded with a bonus in cash or stock, or a raise. For good or ill money is the material expression of our success or failure and our investment in something.

As Christians we are helping God build the Kingdom of God here on earth as we pray in the Lord's prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Helping to build the Kingdom is to invest in its present and future. Listen to those who share their faith stories this year. They will share the story of the relationship with God and how that has been enriched by their life at St. Peter's. Our monetary giving to God through St. Peter's is an investment in the growth of "the Kingdom of God."

For many years, Christians have expressed their gratitude to God, for God's many blessings, through regular giving in the form of a pledge. A **pledge** is a commitment to give x dollars per week/month/year. It is not a contract, but a commitment between you and God, expressed through the Church. The Bible says that what we owe to God is a tithe off the top, or first fruits. A **tithe** is 10%. The Episcopal Church, many years ago, adopted the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians. Most of us have a hard time getting our heads around tithing, especially if it is a new to us. A better way is to think **proportionally**, what proportion or percentage of my income, am I giving back to God at present. Then pray about how you might increase the percentage of giving back. A friend of mine a few years back, made his pledge at a proportional level. He gave the proportion weekly. But, he then tithed all of his income that he did not expect to receive – a coin or dollar bill found – income tax refund – bonus at work, etc. When he figured his pledge for the next year, he included the extra he had given, and increased his pledge accordingly.

I pray that you will be open to our new stewardship program this fall. Be attentive to God's nudges in your life. Be prepared to grow in faith and response.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Don

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani, Director of Christian Formation

This is a Confirmation Year at St. Peter's. Bishop Stokes will be here on May 31st to confirm those who have prepared for this sacrament, so I'd like to share some thoughts about what we do to help prepare our young people for this important milestone in their lives.

The preface to the Service of Confirmation in the Book of Common Prayer states; "In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop."

When we look at the word "Confirmation" there are two things that come to mind. First, when the bishop lays hands on the head of the confirmand, he is verifying that the faith the confirmand has just professed in the Baptismal Covenant is the faith of the whole church ("confirm" –to verify). Secondly, he is praying that the confirmand will grow strong in this faith in the fellowship of the whole Christian community ("confirm"- to make firm).

The word "firm" says that we stand by what we believe in. We are firm or strong in our beliefs and faith, and are willing to walk with Christ through our life.

When I was confirmed I was only ten years old. In those days, anyone who was not confirmed could not receive Holy Communion. There was no age restriction and many of my peers were also confirmed at a very early age. In 1979 the House of Bishops stated that all baptized persons could receive Communion, but the expectation was still that those persons should be confirmed by a bishop when they were able to make their own confession of faith before the bishop and their congregation. In many dioceses bishops also raised the age of Confirmation to eighth grade and older

At St. Peter's we are fortunate that we have a solid program for Confirmation that is an intentional program of preparation using the *Journey to Adult* program that is two years long. During those two years, the youth meet with *Journey to Adulthood* leaders to not only learn the facts about the church, but to also explore how their life in Christ is bound to their life in the world. They use a Passport booklet to map out the ministries that are offered at St. Peter's in order to experience some of the things they would not have known about, or chosen to do on their own. While this may seem a little like a game as they collect the 90 points needed to complete this part of the program, they are participating with other adults and their peers in the greater church to show that they are ready to take on a more adult life in the church.

But, if we are honest with ourselves, we could say that the Christian Formation program that begins with three year olds through tenth grade is all part of the formation of Christians who will come before a Bishop at Confirmation to make their confession of faith. This is bound up in the stories of the Bible that show us how we are all called by God.

In the book, "Signed, Sealed and Delivered", Sharon Ely Pearson writes: "Throughout our biblical tradition we are told the stories of God's people responding to God's call. Abraham's response to the angel of the Lord, "Here I am" (Gen. 22:11). Moses' response to God in the burning bush, "Here I am" (1Sam. 3:8). Isaiah responds to the word of God, "Here am I; send me!" (Isa. 6:8). Mary responds to the astounding news of the angel Gabriel, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38). And Acts 9:10 shares the story of Ananias, a disciple in Damascus who responds to a vision with, "Here I am Lord." The rite of Confirmation gives an individual the opportunity to say, "Here I am Lord." "

Pearson goes on to say we are all called to the ministry of the church. In baptism we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever. When we reaffirm our baptismal promises at Confirmation we are making our response to God, "Here I am Lord-I'm yours!"

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

Erma Bombeck, who died much too young, was a favorite of mine. Below is a piece she wrote while struggling with the disease that took her life.

IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the GOOD living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone lit a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I missed one day.

I would have never bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment realizing that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you" and more "I'm sorry."

But mostly given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it...live it...and never give it back.

Now that fall is here, take time to enjoy the beauty God gives us when He bathes the trees in beautiful colors.

Soles for the Harvest

Third Annual "Soles for the Harvest" 5K Run/Walk, October 25, 2014, 8:00 am – 11:00 am

It's not too late to register for the third annual "Soles for the Harvest 5K Run/Walk." Beginning and ending at Cream Ridge Winery, 145 Route 539, Cream Ridge, NJ, the Run/Walk winds past horse farms and through historic Walnford Park. In recognition of the many unseen workers of sea and land who make modern life possible, race proceeds this year will be split between the Seaman's Church Institute and a new mission to migrant workers being started at St. James', Yardville. Runners and walkers are also encouraged to bring canned goods to benefit the Allentown Food Pantry.

Father Don, Deacon Helen, the Mariettis, the Sosnowskis, the Ken Montgomery family, the Wu Family, and many other members of St. Peter's can tell you that "Soles for the Harvest" is a great event!

For further information and to register, please complete and mail one of the registration forms available on the narthex table or register online at active.com or raceforum.com.

"Soles for the Harvest" is a joint venture of Saint James Episcopal Church, Yardville & St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Hamilton.

For more information or to carpool, please contact Deacon Helen.



DEACON'S BENCH

A Letter from the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti Partnership Coordinator

Haitian students began the 2014-2015 school year on September 8, 2014. Marking that occasion, the Rev. Kesner Ajax, Episcopal Diocese of Haiti Partnership Coordinator and our liaison to both the Diocese of Haiti and Redemption School, provided the following information about the Episcopal School system, the Episcopal Church in Haiti, and the importance of partnership between the Haitian Episcopal Church, Episcopal Schools in Haiti, and fellow Episcopalians..

September 17, 2014

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am pleased to announce that the official date for the reopening of schools in Haiti this year has come and students returned to class on Sept. 8 as planned.

There is another formal assessment in the sixth year of basic or Baccalaureate I. Students will take the examinations in their respective institutions as they do for other exams. The Haitian student from 2015 onwards will undergo two formal reviews: in the ninth year at the end of the primary school cycle and one at the end of secondary school, or after four years of high school. In addition, schools in the Episcopal Church in Haiti typically have excellent results on official exams.

Haiti has so far been spared any bad weather during the past summer and I hope it has been the same for you. In addition, I wish to inform you that for the first time, the Episcopal Church of Haiti is currently training 21 men and women aspiring to become permanent deacons. In recent years, [more than eight] churches that did not have priests in charge have been fortunate enough to acquire them...

Given the evolution and proliferation of the Haitian Episcopal Church, it is important, even essential, to seek partners to share all these new experiences, and so to build together the spiritual and social structures of our country. These are fields of experience which can be special to all who want to discover how life is organized in countries that do not have the same culture and who have not the same historical and cultural experiences.

Thank you for all your support during the past academic year. May God protect you and bless you more in the coming new school year.

Rev. Kesner Ajax
Episcopal Diocese of Haiti Partnership Coordinator



PARISH NEWS



Youth Group BBQ

Sunday, 5 October,
5:00 to 7:30 pm at
Dave and Pat Lusk's

home. We'll have a camp fire, games, prayer and discuss plans for the year. Friends are welcome. The youth group is for the Rite 13, J2A and YAC classes (7th to 12th grade) to join together in worship, service and fellowship. RSVP with Dave.

The Third Annual Blessing of the Halloween Costumes

Children of all ages are invited to bring their Halloween Costumes to church on Sunday, October 26th at the 10:15 service. After receiving Communion, parents can help their children put on their costumes and then gather in the Narthex for the blessing.

This short liturgy reminds the children that the fun of Halloween leads to the importance of All Saint's Day on the following day, November 1st.



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

None

WEDDINGS

None

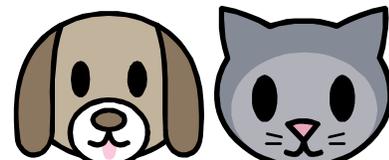
MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

Blessing of Pets

Saturday, October 4 at 5 PM.

Traditionally we hold our blessing of pets on the Saturday closest to St. Francis' Day which is October 4. Since this year October 4 falls on a Saturday we will have our "Blessing of Pets" at the 5:00 pm Service in the Church. Please bring your pets (appropriately restrained) for a blessing. In blessing our pets we give God thanks for creation and we pledge ourselves to care for creation as we care for our pets.



Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, October 5th at 9:00 am

Sunday, October 5 we will celebrate one Eucharist at 9:00 AM (merging the 7:45 and 10:15 Services), following by breakfast for everyone. Following breakfast adults will stay in Williams Hall for the Annual Meeting while children head off to Sunday School. An Annual Parish Meeting is a time for the congregation to elect Wardens, Vestry members, Diocesan Convention and Burling Convocation representatives, and St. Peter's Endowment Board. We also hear of the ministry that went on in and through St. Peter's for the previous year, as well as a charge for the coming year. The Annual Meeting is made up of all of those who worship at St. Peter's, are at least 16 years of age, and are known to the treasurer (that is, have contributed financially for the previous six months). The above qualifications are for seat, voice and vote; and also qualify for election to any of the offices to be elected. It is our belief that God works through all of the members of the Church (lay people and clergy) in setting the course of our ministry and carrying it out. Please come and be heard, allow the Holy Spirit to work through you accomplish God's work in the world.

Used bikes needed

Medford Vincentown Rotary Club (St. Peter's members - Danielle Colaianni, Sam Capri, and Fr. Don) in conjunction with the Medford Police Department and Wheelies Bicycle Sales is having a used bike collection for "Pedals for Progress (P4P)." P4P collects 5,000 to 7,000 bicycles annually and transfers this material wealth to those more needy. To date, more than 138,000 have been shipped to developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. This year's bikes will be send to Nicaragua, Ghana, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Guatemala. These bikes are reconditioned by partner agencies and distributed at low cost to poor working adults. They provide them with reliable transportation for commuting to work, transporting product to market, or accessing health care and other services. Steady employment for these adults is vital to the development and success for these economies.

It costs \$40 to collect, process, ship, rebuild and distribute each bicycle. A donation toward shipping costs is necessary (suggested minimum \$10 per bike). All cash and material donations are fully deductible and a receipt will be available at the collection site. Working portable sewing machines are also accepted.

Sunday, October 5, 2014 at the Medford Police Station Building,

91 Union Street (1 block from light at Sharp Plaza) Medford, NJ,

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



Financial Health

Endowment Board

St. Peter's Endowment Board was established in 2008 to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds. The Endowment Fund is funded through a variety of gift vehicles; including bequests in wills, charitable remainder trusts, other trusts, life insurance policies, real estate, securities, stock, other life income gifts and other property. The Board will receive and administer these gifts in a manner faithful to loyalty and devotion to God expressed by the donors, and in accord with the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of New Jersey, and the policies of St. Peter's.

The Board is continuing the Vestry's designation of the Diocesan Trust Fund as the appropriate depository for the funds. Gifts and interest received in the past year have raised the value of the fund to \$46,502.69, an increase \$ 1,194.61 since last year's report.

Members of the Board and others are available to assist parishioners in matters of this regard. Gifts to the Fund can be made at any time by anyone and in whatever vehicle the donor wishes to use in conformity with the gift policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Mitchell, Chairman



For of August 2014

Income: \$28,785.00

Expenses: \$31,711.00

Net: -\$2926.00

Thinking About Vacation Bible School Already!

We know that summer is just over and our thoughts are now turning to the beautiful fall weather and the upcoming holidays, but it's never too early to start dreaming of summer!

This year, we have an easy way for everyone to help us make next summer's Vacation Bible School even better than ever. All funds raised this year through FundPhotos will be dedicated to our summer 2015 Vacation Bible School, which means that when you make your family photo Christmas cards or that special gift photo book or calendar, 20% of your purchase price will be donated to St. Peter's VBS fund.

FundPhotos standard donation is 10%, but as a charter participating charitable organization, St Peter's receives 20% of your purchase price, which makes your money go twice as far. FundPhotos photo processing quality is the same as Snapfish and Shutterfly and the prices are competitive, so click on the smiling frog at the bottom of the St Peter's home page or go to www.Fundphotos.com to start using FundPhotos and raising funds for our Vacation Bible School today!

Where do the children go?



If you have ever been in the 10:15 service during the school year, you may have wondered why young children suddenly come flooding into the church around the time of the peace offering. That is because Sue Legnani and a team of talented musicians offer something called Children's Chapel for our youngest parishioners during the first half of the service. In Chapel, Sue tells the story of the gospel using a felt board, crafts, songs and activities that are age appropriate and help to keep them engaged while allowing them a little more movement than in church. They then process into church at the peace offering and re-join their families. Thank you to Sue and her musicians for offering this service to our parish. Chapel is offered every Sunday during the school year except the third Sunday of the month, which is "Children's Sunday", a day when the music and sermon are geared towards kids, and our youth serve as our ushers and lectors. *Photos from Chapel taken by Tiffany Myers.*



Likewise, you may have wondered why sometimes during the 10:15 service, teenagers and adults stream in about half way through and the aroma of pancakes fills the air. On the 2nd Sunday of each month, our volunteers cook breakfast at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden. They are usually able to make it back at some point during the 10:15 service and join the rest of the congregation. They may look tired and smell like a diner, but know that they have been doing good work! *Photos from St. Paul's taken by Ken Montgomery.*

Parish Picnic



At the St. Peter's annual picnic, the kids had fun playing games while the adults enjoyed the sunshine and fellowship. The Colaianni's new puppy Phoebe also attended. Thank you to everyone who brought food, set up, cleaned up or cooked. It was a wonderful time together!

Photos courtesy of Tiffany Myers.



PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



On the first day of Sunday School, Father Don and the children of the parish blessed our 2014-15 Sunday School teachers. Thank you to all of you who lend your time and talents to educating our youth. (Photo courtesy of Michelle Scarpulla.)



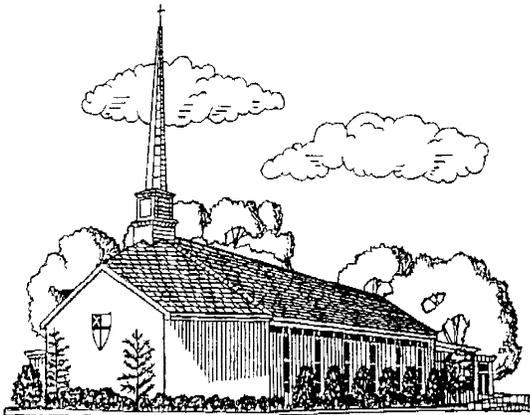
One recent Sunday, Ken Montgomery served as a Eucharistic Minister while all four of his daughters served as acolytes. It was a family affair! If you would like more information about becoming a Eucharistic Minister, please contact Deacon Helen. If your child is in 3rd grade or higher and would like to become an acolyte, please contact Jack Hobson. *(Photo courtesy of Ken Montgomery.)*

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>
Email: office@stpetersmedford.org Newsletter email: stpetersnewsletter@stpetersmedford.org

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.

October 2014

<i>Serving Others</i>	1
<i>From Pulpit to Pew</i>	2
<i>Kids' Corner</i>	3
<i>Body & Soul</i>	4
<i>Deacon's Bench</i>	5
<i>Parish News</i>	6
<i>Parish Meeting</i>	7
<i>Financial Health</i>	8
<i>Where do the children go?</i>	9
<i>Parish Picnic</i>	10
<i>Photo Album</i>	11

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #81
Vincentown, NJ

Contains Dated Material

Return Service Requested