



Heart of the Home update

By Cynthia Sosnowski

Rebuilding homes after Hurricane Sandy is taking a LONG time and volunteers from all over the country are still hard at work helping to bring life back to normal for displaced residents. Heart of the Home is still hard at work too, building Welcome Home baskets that are delivered to families as they move back into their newly rebuilt homes.

A BIG thank you to the team of volunteers that turned out on Aug 10 to build 4 baskets for the Diocese of New Jersey to take to residents in north Jersey. They were delivered this week and they were much appreciated! If you weren't able to make that basket building session, no worries, there will be other opportunities.

You can still help out by remembering to add one small Heart of the Home item to each week's grocery shopping list. Right now, our wish list includes:

- Birthday candles
- Turkey basters
- Ice cream scoops
- Small cheese spreaders
- Cookie cutters
- Anything fall or winter themed decorative items

You may leave your items in the 'Heart of the Home' box in the narthex or the church office hallway, and thank you!



September Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

Sept. 1 Church Office closed
Sept. 7 Sunday School Begins, 9:00 a.m.
Sept. 9 Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 14 Ministry Fair and Picnic following 10:15 a.m. service
Sept. 14 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.
Sept. 22 Caps & Laps 1:00 pm
Sept. 26 Coach Bag Bingo 6:00 p.m.
Oct. 5 One Service, 9:00 am; Brunch 10:00 am, Annual Meeting 10:30 am

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

While Father Don is on vacation, he has offered us this Stewardship Reflection written by Jan Charney in the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Stewardship Reflections ...Revised Common Lectionary ... Year A
August 3 to September 28, 2014

Proper 13 There is an old table Grace which says: “Christ in the wilderness five thousand fed, with two small fishes and five loaves of bread. May the God above, who made that division, descend upon us and our provision. Amen.” Perhaps you can use it this week as you thank God for the great variety of gifts He gives us.

Proper 14 Impetuous Peter...so quick to want to show his faith and trust in Jesus...and so equally quick to fall back in fear when the wind intruded. How often do we, attempting to live as God’s stewards, let the winds of the world make us falter in our trust for the ever-present heavenly mercy? Thankfully, over and over Jesus says, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Proper 15 In the Gospel which speaks of the pleas of the Canaanite woman (the Canaanites and Israelites did not enjoy amicable relationships), Jesus reminded the Disciples that he had been sent to seek the “lost”. How reassuring to know that he still to this day seeks the “lost” among us, and that if we continue to have faith as the woman did, God has promised to guide and support our lives!

Proper 16 Near the end of Psalm 138, it says: “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe...your right hand shall save me. The Lord will make good his purpose for me...O Lord, your love endures forever.” As “stewards-in training”, how can we strive to genuinely trust and believe these promises? Perhaps utilizing the Holy Habits (prayer, bible study, community worship and service, and thankful giving) can help. Why not covenant to give them a new or renewed try in the days ahead?

Proper 17 Now here’s a very vivid vision. How can we live in God’s love and power so it will seem to us and to others that we’ve had some radical surgery – and that the love of His name (and all that that implies) is truly “grafted in our hearts”? It’s probably easier for us to consider the challenges of physical heart surgery than to pray for the blessed addition to our bodies and minds the true Healer can make if called upon.

Proper 18 “For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” I read or heard somewhere that Jesus said “feed my sheep, don’t count them!” But in reality, numbers do count, and the support we give each other by faithful attendance at worship and by our personal and financial participation for parish ministries is a morale boost to all who are involved. Pray (and do your part) to be an active part of a lively, God-centered congregation!

Note: Dates vary, of course, but the two following reflections are meant to be used near Labor Day and whenever your start-up Sunday is scheduled. Adapt by replacing the regular Reflections as you need or choose to.

- 1) “A suggestion for this Labor Day weekend: As a way of being always thankful for God’s many gifts, read the Litanies of Thanksgiving in our Prayer Book – particularly number 2 on p. 836, and number 5 on page 838 – they are good reminders for all of us.”
- 2) “In many parishes, this is “start-again Sunday” – especially for Choirs, Church Schools, and Education programs. Give special thanks for all who lead our resuming programs, and pray about how, as a disciple and steward, you might offer yourself to serve others in those ministries. Being thankful involves not only prayer, but action and participation!” *(continued on page 6)*

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani,
Director of Christian Formation

In her classic book on Christian Education, *The Privilege of Teaching* (1962), Dora Chaplin states, "Our constant aim in the education of a Christian is to lead him, through his sacramental life in the Church's worship and work, to discover Almighty God in Christ Jesus and to be transformed to God's will and purpose, in this world and the next."

Our own mission statement says, "The mission of St. Peter's Church includes following Christ through "study." In fulfilling this part of our mission, we seek to provide quality Christian Formation programs for all ages."

Specifically, the mission statement of the *Christian Education Council (CEC)* is as follows:

"Our goal is to create a loving and caring environment in which people of all ages come to know Jesus Christ and to enter into a personal relationship with the Lord. This relationship is encouraged to grow by teaching each adult, child and youth the meaning of being a disciple of Christ and the ways in which He empowers us to minister to others in our daily lives."

When we bring children to be baptized, parents and Godparents respond to two questions:

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

And to each question they answer, "I will with God's help." (I wish there was an exclamation point there.)

These promises are kept as adults and children are present in church to worship, receive the sacraments and learn together. Like most parishes, St. Peter's offers many opportunities each week to do this.

Sunday School will begin on September 7th and 9:00 am. There are classes for children as young as 3 years old up through High School. Here is what you can expect in the Christian Formation program this year:

Pre Kindergarten – Kindergarten

Godly Play is taught at this level and invites children to wonder about themselves, God, and the world in a way that is playful and meaningful.

First to Sixth Grade

Weaving God's Promises is a three-year Christian Education program that will be used in the St. Peter's Kids (First – Third Grade) and St. Peter's Rock (Fourth to Sixth Grade) classes. The curriculum was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. It's titled *Weaving God's Promises* after the process of faith formation in which we learn how God's promises of salvation are inextricably woven into our lives.

Christian Formation for Youth

Journey to Adulthood (J2A) is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th - 12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its core principles:

- 1) *Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God.*
- 2) *Adulthood must be earned.*

(continued on page 4)

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

So, what did you do this summer? Remember when that was the first question the teacher asked you on the first day of school?

Well, I spent most of my summer in the company of my 11 year-old grandson while his mother recovered from foot surgery. We spent a few days in the village of Smithville, went to local venues for entertainment and of course, spent a week 'down the shore.'

But one of the most interesting things we did was to go on a Wilderness Escape. Yes, I mean the Vacation Bible School experience. Williams Hall was transformed into a landscape where Moses wandered with his people. There were big rocks with sheep grazing, a tent made for fashioning sandals, which they wore at that time. There was a tent for making musical instruments, a tent for making butter, which was delicious, by the way. They had a tent for making bells to use, which were used for herding camels. Some of the campers made bread, which smelled heavenly! Moses was seen walking around and I was told he took them on hikes outdoors.

They had snacks, which imitated the foods eaten long ago in the desert. Some looked suspiciously like food we have now but tasted yummy.

The kids were able to make 'flat Moses' if they chose. Those of us who sat on the sidelines were also able to make them. The idea was to take him with you wherever you went for the rest of the summer. Alas, my Moses is sitting in my living room watching but not going any -where!

Funny but when I returned to Williams Hall a day later, it looked just like it always does. Rocks and sheep were gone along with the tents. Even Moses went back to leading his people. A big kudos to all the folks who made VBS happen. I know it took a lot of work and planning. But the kids (and the adults) had a good time and learned something in the process!!!

Finally: Look what happened to Moses when he started out as a basket case!

See page 11 for photos from this year's VBS!

Kids' Corner (cont.)

Cont. from page 3:

There are three two-year segments of the program: Rite-13: The first two years (7th - 8th graders) that focus on celebrating the individuality of each young person and their creative potential.

J2A: The middle portion of the program (9th - 10th graders), engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 31st, when Bishop Stokes will confirm or receive those who have prepared for this sacrament.

Many other opportunities will be available during the year for Intergenerational programs and study opportunities for adults. Please watch the St. Peter's website and the Newsletter for more information.

In the midst of our busy lives we all know that it's important to develop our spiritual lives, but it's often hard to follow up on our good intentions. There are always other pressures that will try to interrupt or deter us from that mission. However, we need to make time to worship and study to strengthen ourselves to meet the challenges of our life in Christ. The mission of our Christian Formation program is to help us all, young people and adults alike, to do just that.

As we start another year of Christian Formation at St. Peter's we invite you, your family and friends to join together to keep those Baptismal promises made for us and for our children.

DEACON'S BENCH

Celebrate 75 Years of Ministry by Episcopal Relief and Development

Episcopal Relief and Development kicks-off its 75th anniversary celebration on Sunday, September 16, 2014. Begun in 1940 to aid refugees fleeing Europe during World War II, the organization first known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief then continued its work as a provider of emergency disaster relief. During the 1960's and 1970's, the Fund responded to the growing awareness of worldwide hunger, disease, and disaster by gradually changing its emphasis from short-term relief to that of more lasting rehabilitation and development work. Renamed "Episcopal Relief and Development" in 2000, "ER-D" now emphasizes programmatic community development, has endorsed the Millennium Development Goals, and works in approximately 40 countries throughout the developing world.

Through ER-D, the Episcopal Church is currently partnering with both the Anglican Diocese of Bo (Sierra Leone) and the Episcopal Church of Liberia to fight the Ebola crisis by supporting awareness-raising efforts and providing personal protection equipment and disinfectants to under-resourced hospitals and clinics in the affected areas. ER-D is also active in the Middle East, providing funding for food and fuel to the Diocese of Jerusalem's Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, as the hospital responds to urgent needs during the current crisis.

Defining itself as "the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world," ER-D finds its mandate in the familiar words of Matthew 25: Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food? We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink? We saw you a stranger and welcomed you? We saw you sick and took care of you? We saw you in prison and visited you? 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' —Matthew 25: 37-40 (NRSV)

I invite you to watch for more information about Episcopal Relief and Development during the coming months, and encourage your continued contributions to its work through the use of the Love Boxes in the pews and through targeted donations. Since we are the church, Episcopal Relief and Development is, in a very concrete way, our way of fulfilling our baptismal promises "to seek and serve Christ in all persons" and "to respect the dignity of every human being," by reaching beyond ourselves to heal a hurting world.

Faithfully,
Deacon Helen



Prayers for Peace

St. Peter's prays for Iraq and the Middle East

Our Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori, recently called all Episcopalians to observe August 17 as a day of prayer for those in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East living in fear of their lives, livelihoods, and ways of living and believing. In response to the violence in Iraq that has included the slaying of Christians, Yazidis, and other Iraqi religious minorities; the destruction and looting of churches, homes, and places of business; and the displacement of thousands under the threat of death, she urged us to "pray that all God's children might live in hope of the world of peace for which we were created."

With the approval of Father Don, a special invitation was issued to the parish to attend the Wednesday, August 13, Healing Service to pray for peace and healing for the world. Anita Beard, Worship Leader, designed a beautiful and contemplative service that included not only the customary liturgy for healing, but also specially chosen music and a litany drawn from materials available in *The Book of Common Prayer*. On Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17, words from the Presiding Bishop's call for prayer were included in our Prayers of the People and the congregation joined with Father Salmon in praying the following Collect, found on page 815 of *The Book of Common Prayer*:

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn by the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray for peace in God's world every day.

Continued from page 2.

Proper 19 "*Not seven times, but seventy times seven*" says Jesus about how often we should forgive others. How hard it is for us not to hang on to our hurts and (real or imagined) "sins against us". But if we truly want to live our lives in God, we need to use His extravagant model, and not allow the "energy leak" of nursing those grudges and hurts to affect our own serenity and acceptance.

Proper 20 "*...are you envious because I am generous?*" Do we spend more time lamenting our personal scarcity than being grateful and thankful for all we have been given and responding accordingly? It is certainly true that we can't begin to "out-give" God, but would our lives perhaps be more contented and feel more blessed if we decided to be first-fruits or "I can't wait to give" donors to the life and ministry to which God has called all of us? Remember, Baptism tells us we are "*marked as Christ's own forever*". How do you respond to that gift?

Proper 21 There's another vineyard parable which is also reflected in a favorite hymn, "*Come Labor On*" (Hymnal #541). Stanza 2 says in part: "*Come labor on...no arm so weak but may do service here. By feeblest agents may our God fulfill, his righteous will.* There's plenty of work and support needed. All of us are called. And the hymn ends with the promise of a wonderful commendation: "*...and a glad sound comes with the setting sun; Servants, well done.*" Isn't that what we all hope to hear?

Please join us for the
Ministry Fair and picnic
following the 10:15 service
on Sunday, September 14th.
Please bring an appetizer,
salad or dessert.

PARISH NEWS

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

Oct. 5th, following one Sunday Service at 9:00 am

10:00 am Family Brunch

10:30 am Sunday School and Annual Parish Meeting



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Bryce Carter Farino, son of Dan and Lisa Farino, July 20, 2014

Ian Richard Finley, son of Richard and Sara Finley, August 3, 2014

Nicholas Andrew Seeds, son of Joe Seeds and Alexis Romano, August 23, 2014

WEDDINGS

Sally Rittelmeyer and Jim Smith, Aug. 9, 2014

MEMORIAL SERVICES

None

OUR CHURCH'S
**FINANCIAL
HEALTH**

As of 7/31/14:

Income: \$20,859.00

Expenses: \$21,797.00

Difference: - 938.00

\$10,204 in unpaid bills

Digital Photography Tutorial

James Beard will give a slide show tutorial on Digital Photography at St. Peter's this fall, once per week for about eight weeks, in the evenings or on weekends. The topics will be selected according to the preferences of the people who sign up, as will the day.

If you use a film camera, don't let "digital" put you off. Most topics apply equally to film camera photography. We will have detailed presentations on four to six of these topics (vote for as many as you like when you sign up, top vote-getters will be our topics):

1. Basics: Lighting, color balance, lens aperture, f/stop, shutter speed, and the camera's effective "film" speed.
2. Big DSLR, small DSLR, point-and-shoot, cell phone: what's the difference? (Not as much as you might think!)
3. What's a megapixel? What does megapixel rating have to do with my pictures?
4. Use of in-camera flash, clamp-on flash, and auxiliary.
5. People photography: posed, candid, and opportunistic: How do you do it, and when is it OK?
6. Children and pets: How to get clear, well-lit pictures.
7. What do you need to carry with you when you:
 - o Go about your everyday business,
 - o Go out to do nature photography,
 - o Go to an event to take pictures of the crowd,
8. Macrophotography: flowers and insects, bringing the "small world" to life.
9. HDR, High Dynamic Range photography: what is it, and when and how do I use it?

Each presentation will be about an hour, 45 minutes for the slides and 15 minutes at the end for questions and discussion. When you sign up, suggest a time. Here is a menu that you can use by letter if you find your preference in the list:

- a. Saturday at 10:00 AM.
- b. Saturday at 2:00 PM.
- c. Sunday at 12:00 PM noon.
- d. Sunday at 1:00 PM.
- e. Sunday at 2:00 PM.
- f. Sunday at a later time.
- g. Weekday after work (Thursday is not open for me).

Please call or e-mail the Office or James Beard to enroll and vote for your choice of topics and presentation time.

James K Beard

(609) 654-6559

Cell (609) 980-7338

<http://jameskbeard.com>

Fund Photos

Now that summer is quickly waning, make those fun summer memories permanent by printing photos of your family's adventures. Better yet, make a photo book for Summer '14!

St Peter's is a charter member of FundPhotos, the only online photo processing and personalized photo merchandise retailer that donates a portion of the sales price to your chosen community organization. As a charter member community organization, we get 20% of every purchase, so save those memories and support St Peter's Sunday School.

www.FundPhotos.com

Contact our FundPhotos coordinator Cynthia Sosnowski, 609.602.2762, with any questions.



Calling all youth!

Youth Group -- will hold a barbecue with games at Pat and Dave Lusk's home on Sunday, 5 October from 5 to 7:30 pm. See Dave to sign up and details. The youth group is a forum for young adults to play, worship and to be of service to the church and community. Ages from the Rite 13 Sunday school class to seniors in high school are welcome.

Vestry Update: Summer 2014

Your Wardens and Vestry sincerely hope you and your families have enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing summer! While we too have been on “summer hours”, we have accomplished a great deal recently and wanted to share some of that Good News with you!

We hope that you have noticed a lot of tree trimming has taken place, in particular around the main parking lot areas. We did this to curtail the encroachment into the parking lot of some large branches, and to allow our lights to provide better illumination. Sadly, three of our trees had died or were dying, and for safety, we had them removed. We also did some pruning at the Rectory to keep the trees away from the house.

Speaking of the Rectory, our house on Christopher Mill needed some repairs. Two leaks have been fixed, the roof has been repaired, the chimney re-flashed and re-capped, the kitchen ceiling re-hung and painted, the master bathroom was re-caulked, and a new back door on the screen porch was installed, among other repairs.

At church, we have had nearly 20 light bulbs replaced and/or upgraded, including those lighting our steeple at night. Also, a new GFI outlet was installed near the Memorial Garden pond, along with a new pump, which we hope will put an end to some issues we have had in that area. We hope you are as glad as we are to see our Shield back on the outer wall, shining proudly.

Inside our four walls, we have signed a lease agreement with a group called Champion Youth, a national non-profit which provides classes for youth to encourage physical fitness, self-confidence, education and teamwork. By doing so we hope to continue our goal of community outreach and welcoming others to St. Peter's, while at the same time bringing in some rental income. Champion Youth will begin classes in late September, Tuesday nights, in Williams Hall.

Before Labor Day, a group of volunteers will once again clean the carpets, donating their time, a generous offering which saves our Parish more than one thousand dollars each year.

We hope you have noticed some of these upgrades and efforts. Please note we have more to do !

We look forward to seeing you this Fall at services, and also at our Ministry Fair and BBQ, as well as at our Annual Meeting, both coming up soon. Please check your calendars and bulletins !

To pose questions, provide feedback, or to make suggestions, please reach out to any Vestry member. Please note that beginning in September 2014, our meetings will move to the 2nd Wednesday of the month, still at 7:30 p.m., still in the Parish Library. Your attendance is always welcome. Peace be with you.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Wardens and Vestry,

John Colaianni, Senior Warden

COACH BAG

Doors open 6:00pm. BYOB happy hour 6:30-7:30 pm. Bingo starts 7:30pm sharp. Ticket price includes ten (10) games of bingo. Additional bingo cards and markers can be purchased at the event. No one under 21 years old admitted. Light refreshments will be served. Please bring your own snacks etc. to enjoy. Carpooling strongly encouraged as parking is limited !

Friday, September 26th

@ YMCA CAMP OCKANICKON --- DINING HALL

1303 STOKES ROAD, MEDFORD, NJ

Tickets only \$30 pp

All proceeds benefit St. Peter's Episcopal Church general fund. Please join us! Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance.

Get your tickets today!

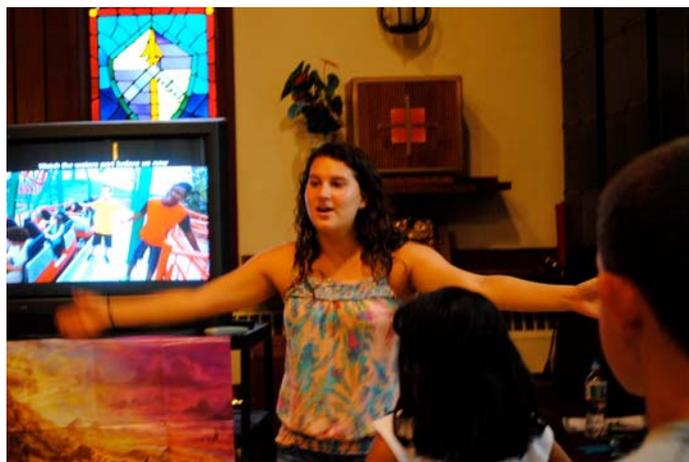
609-654-2963 (church office)

Email: Office@stpetersmedford.org

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



Moses was clearly the star of this year's Vacation Bible School. Above left, Moses (played by Steve Miller) and Flat Moses are ready for the adventure to begin! Center, Anthony Rubano prays. Right, Sage Worsdell participates in one of the games.



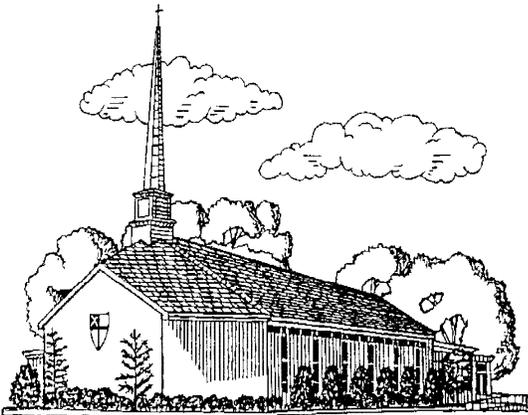
Music, crafts, games and snacks are all a big part of VBS. Above left, Kela McEntee leads the group in song and movement. Right, the children play one of the many games. Thank you to Jenn Brownlee, Sue Legnani and all of the volunteers who made this VBS so much fun for the youth of our parish and our community.

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
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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.

September 2014

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