



International Gift Market coming to St. Peter's



Remember to mark your calendars for St. Peter's first International Gift Market on **Saturday, November 14th 9 am-3 pm**. Sponsored by your MDG Team for the benefit of the students of Redemption School in Gonaives, Haiti, it will be a major event publicized throughout the area. Crowds are expected!

All items for sale will be unique, handmade items provided by SERV, 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. We will offer a broad variety of merchandise from around the world, including Rwanda and Haiti. Look for stunning baskets, beautiful scarves, wall décor, dishes and serveware, musical instruments, children's toys, stocking stuffers, and Christmas décor of all kinds. Foodies will welcome our fair trade coffees, teas, chocolate, and soup mixes.

Of course, "we" is not just your MDG Team. St. Peter's companionship with Redemption School belongs to all of us! Since many hands make light work, we hope that you will take this opportunity to let us know that you will be able to help prepare for, run, or clean-up after the sale. A volunteer sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter offering a variety of available roles. Please use it (or contact Deacon Helen as noted on the sheet) to offer your help.



September Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

Sept. 7 Church Office closed

Sept. 9 Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 13 Sunday School Begins, 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 13 Picnic following 10:15 a.m. service

Sept. 13 St. Paul's Breakfast Program, 7:45 a.m.

Sept. 27 Annual Meeting following 10:15 service

Sept. 28 Caps & Laps 1:00 pm

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller

As we got closer to the school year, I noticed the fields of our high schools loaded with young people practicing – football, field hockey, cross country, soccer. Games/meets won't begin for several weeks but practice is necessary. Once the competitions begin, these athletes will practice between competitions.

A theory Malcolm Gladwell popularized in *Outliers*—that 10,000 hours of practice can turn anyone into an expert, has now been debunked. There are other variable factors that come into play. In *Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence*, celebrated psychologist and journalist **Daniel Goleman**, best-known for his influential 1995 book *Emotional Intelligence*, debunks the 10,000-hour mythology to reveal the more complex truth beneath the popular rule of thumb: The “10,000-hour rule” — that this level of practice holds the secret to great success in any field — has become sacrosanct gospel, echoed on websites and recited as litany in high-performance workshops. The problem: it's only half true. If you are a duffer at golf, say, and make the same mistakes every time you try a certain swing or putt, 10,000 hours of practicing that error will not improve your game. You'll still be a duffer, albeit an older one. No less an expert than Anders Ericsson, the Florida State University psychologist whose research on expertise spawned the 10,000-hour rule of thumb, told me, “You don't get benefits from mechanical repetition, but by adjusting your execution over and over to get closer to your goal.” “You have to tweak the system by pushing,” he adds, “allowing for more errors at first as you increase your limits.” The art or practice of “prayer” takes more than just opening our mouths. If we are truly to grow in faith, prayer has to be a primary tool. Sunday morning worship in a community/congregation is vital, but it cannot sustain the entirety of our prayer lives. I came across a great article entitled “The All-Time 10 Best Tips on Prayer for Beginners That I Have Ever Heard” by Jim Stephens. Here are his tips:

- Schedule a Prayer Time
- Just Get Started
- Think of God's Point of View
- Be specific
- Pray out loud
- Pray with other people
- Pray for others
- Ask Questions
- Create a holy environment
- Build your foundation step by step.

I think they are pretty good. As we begin to make commitments this Fall, perhaps we might make a commitment to deepen/grow in our prayer/faith life?

In Christ,

Fr. Don

See pages 6 and 7 for a listing of Christian education opportunities for adults throughout the fall.

KIDS' CORNER

By Sue Legnani

Director of Christian Formation

“Children will never have faith unless there is a community of faith for them to live in and be influenced by.”

John H. Westerhoff III

On the third Sunday of the month from October to May we have a slightly more informal service at 10:15 that we call “The Children’s Service”. The difference between this liturgy and the Eucharist that we have at other times is that our children are even more involved in the liturgy reading the scripture lessons and the Prayers of the People, and assisting as ushers. The music also includes more praise hymns and Fr. Don preaches a sermon that is more tailored to the children.

Why does St. Peter’s have a Children’s Service? For one, it’s an intentional way to have our children and youth participate in ways they might not otherwise experience like reading in public or assisting as ushers. Because the service is a little more informal and meant for children, families shouldn’t feel stressed if kids become restless. (We want kids in church at any time.)

I know that many children and parents have hectic schedules and coming to Sunday School and the church service may feel like a lot of time on Sunday morning. However, the time children spend in Sunday School is different than the time they spend with their adult(s) in church learning the story of our faith in a different way through the worship of God in the liturgy. When you think about church there is music, lights (candles with real fire!), bright colors, stained glass windows, movement and other adults who have the opportunity to interact with children. Children who are between 3 and 7 can attend Children’s Chapel on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays until the Peace, where the worship is more informal and there are lively Bible stories told with our Beulah Land materials as well as music. If a child needs a break there is the nursery with caring adults and teens who give them a safe place to play.

But when your child is in church with you at any time let me share a few pointers for adults who have the privilege of worshiping with a child:

- Stimulate a sense of wonder and mystery about what we are doing in church.
- Help your children ready themselves before you come into church. If they need a little time to calm down before coming into church then take that time so they are ready to hear and see what is going to happen during the service.
- Engage in conversation about God. Be open to your children’s questions and don’t worry if you don’t know the answer. No one knows all the answers and you can work together to find out what you need to know. You can start with Fr. Don or me. We also have a parish library with many good books you can check out.
- Attend church regularly with your children and take the time to show them where we are in the bulletin, Prayer Book and Hymnals. There are children’s bulletins in the Narthex that include the Gospel story and other activities that are related to that scripture. If your children are restless encourage them to draw something they like in the church.
- Show joy whenever possible when you attend church. Sing out and yes, dancing is allowed in the pews when the spirit moves us.

Allow your children to have their own dignity by having their own personal relationship with God.

Welcome to worship at St. Peter’s!

Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

Even though Fall is my favorite season, I hate to let go of summer. When I was a kid in school, summers meant a l-o-n-g time to just play, swim, wear shorts and get a sun tan. Now a days, summer whizzes by and seems to get shorter each year before Fall sneaks in

Each year as summer approaches, I make an actual list or maybe a mental one detailing what I want to do during the lazy months of June, July and August. Some years, I really do get some of the projects done. Other years, time goes by too swiftly and I sit and wonder where the time went.

Fall will soon begin. The kids will be back in school, groups that took time off for summer months will begin again, summer clothes will have to be changed for ones that speak of cooler weather and a myriad of other things will have to be done marking the beginning of cooler weather.

And what of you? How will you spend your time this fall now that responsibilities have increased? The older I become, the more I realize that time is not infinite, it's finite. We only have so much time on this earth and, I think, God wants us to use it productively. That's not to say we have to be doing something every minute, even Jesus rested when necessary. But, we have to pick and choose how we fill those minutes. How much time will we spend in anger at someone or something? How much time will we spend filling our minds with nonsense that serves no purpose? How much time will be have pity parties over the hand that was dealt us?

We don't have control over many things but one thing we do have control over is how we spend our leisure time. Try to make this Fall a good one so when the next season rolls around, we'll feel good about the decisions we made.

And finally: He who angers you, controls you.

Heart of the Home update

Exciting news from the Heart of the Home outreach project! Although the immediate, acute need for kitchen and home office items for Hurricane Sandy recovery families is beginning to wind down, we have identified a new start up outreach being run by the Volunteers of America, south Jersey chapter, to help supply these exact same items to individuals and families who are leaving homeless shelters and moving into housing. We are meeting with members of Volunteers of America to talk over how this collaboration might work, and we will have more news very soon, so stay tuned!



DEACON'S BENCH



Why this candle?

By Deacon Helen Orlando

Have you ever noticed the large number of candles we use in our worship services? Just the Altar candles, Ambo (lectern) candles, and candelabra lit at our weekly celebrations of the Holy Eucharist add up to four to fourteen candles per service. Advent brings the candles of the Advent Wreath, Christmas brings a “Silent Night” candle for every worshipper, and Easter brings the Paschal Candle. Newlyweds signal their union with a Unity Candle. Newly-Baptized Christians are given a lighted candle with the charge to “Shine as his light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.” I could go on and on, but I won’t.

Since Advent, we have opened our Prayers of the People with the lighting of yet another candle: The Episcopal Relief & Development Votive Candle. This candle symbolizes the prayers we offer for the work of Episcopal Relief & Development and those it serves. It also reminds us of this year’s celebration of the 75 years during which we in the Episcopal Church have served those in need through the work of Episcopal Relief & Development (formerly the Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief). I encourage you to remember both “ER-D” and those it serves in your daily prayers, using your own words or the Episcopal Church have brought the light of Christ to the world through the work of Episcopal following text:

Loving and merciful God, you bestow your grace on all of your children: Remember our sisters and brothers throughout the world who, in partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development, strengthen communities, empower the poor, nourish the hungry, restore the sick, and uplift those affected by disaster and uphold Episcopal Relief & Development for the next 75 years, so that your Kingdom might be known to all people. Amen.



Christian Formation in September:

September 13: 9:00 First Day of Sunday School; Rite 13 parent and youth meeting in the Chapel

10:15 No Chapel; Teacher Instillation and Blessing of Backpacks* at 10:15 service

Parish Picnic following 10:15 service

September 20: 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Education: Transforming Questions (led by Fr. Don)

10:15 Chapel

September 27: 9:00 Sunday School and Adult Education: Transforming Questions (led by Fr. Don)

10:15 Chapel

11:30 Breakfast and Annual Meeting. Child care will be available.

*** September 13th is Blessing of the Backpacks at the 10:15 service.**

All children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpack to be blessed at the 10:15 service. Many churches have begun the practice of “Blessing Backpacks” as a way to send our children off with prayers for a safe and successful year of learning. We think it will be a very positive way for our children to know that the whole congregation stands with them as they go off to school this year, and a reminder that no matter what this year brings God is with them and so are we.

Adults are also invited to bring their briefcases, diaper bags or whatever you use to carry your stuff around. After all we could all use a blessing to get us through the new school year. Tell your friends and invite them to bring their backpacks too!



Nursery Care

We offer child care in our Nursery every Sunday at the 10:15 service as well as holidays and could use some more volunteers. If you are interested please contact Sue Legnani (slegnani@stpetersmedford.org) to be put on the schedule. This is a great way for teens to get credit for community service. Thank you.

PARISH NEWS

Healing Service resumes on September 2nd and will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in Moore Chapel.

Adult Formation – Sunday Mornings At 9:00 Am – “Transforming Questions”

“Can We Question Our Faith?” “Who Is Jesus?” “Why Did Jesus Have To Die?” “What Do We Have To Do?” “How Should I Read The Bible?” “Does God Answer Prayer?” “Why Do Bad Things Happen?” “Where Do We Go When We Die?” “Why Do I Need Church?” “Where Do We Go From Here?” Or “Where Does The Episcopal Church Come From? What Do I Have To Believe To Be An Episcopalian?”

These are the foundational questions of the Christian faith that we will be exploring for ten weeks beginning Sunday, September 20 at 9:00 am in Moore Chapel. Come join in the conversation. Grow in understanding and faith. Leader: Fr. Don

Wednesday Morning Bible Study At 11:00 Am In The Church Library

The New Testament begins with the Gospel according to Matthew. So did our Wednesday Bible study as we began studying in depth specific books of the Bible. Join us as we continue with the book “Matthew for Everyone: Part Two” by Tom Wright (Bishop of Durham and noted New Testament scholar). Study will commence on Wednesday, September 16 at 11:00 am and runs about an hour. Books will be provided, you are encouraged to bring your own Bible as well. We have lots of fun including going over our homework of Bible Scavenger Hunts. While a number of members of this group have been meeting for several years, newcomers are always welcome. Prior Bible study experience is not a prerequisite. Leader: Fr. Don

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Jacob Bryan Stout, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Stout, August 29, 2015

Emma Ruth Ferguson, daughter of Jason and Sharon Ferguson, August 30, 2015

WEDDINGS

Mandelle Danser and Brian Hunter, August 16, 2015

Starting after Labor Day, coffee hour will resume after the 7:45 and 10:15 services.

If you are interested in volunteering to host coffee hour for one of the services, please contact Beverly Scollay at 856-334-8734.



Thomas and Cathy Snyder proudly announce their daughter, Marisa, has started Cummings Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine in Grafton, Massachusetts. Their son, Luke, has also been accepted in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Haiti

History of Dominican-Haitian Relations

By Grayson Myers

Today, the island of Hispaniola is divided into two countries: Haiti in the west and the Dominican Republic in the east. This was not always the case. The Spanish initially colonized the island at the end of the 15th century. In 1605, the Spanish forced their colonists on the western portions of the island to move to eastern portions of the island (in order to inhibit them from trading with the Dutch, enemies of Spain at the time). This action allowed the French to begin to colonize the western section of Hispaniola, which became a French colony known as Saint-Domingue. By the end of the 17th century, France controlled a third of Hispaniola. By 1795, France controlled the entire island. This did not last long, as the Haitian Revolution forced the French out of Saint-Domingue, which became Haiti. The French remained in control of the city of Santo Domingo in the eastern half of the island, and the area around it, until they lost it to the Spanish in 1809. The Spanish ruled until 1821, when rebels overthrew the Spanish Administration and established a new nation, the Republic of the Spanish Haiti. This nation lasted just over two months before Haiti took it over. Haitian troops occupied what is today known as the Dominican Republic for 22 years, fueling Dominican resentment of Haitians in the process. In 1844, the Dominican Republic declared independence and fought off multiple Haitian attempts to reassert their authority over the next twelve years. Haiti never managed to “unify” Hispaniola, but relations between the countries remained tense. Today, this tension principally manifests itself in the Dominican government’s policy toward Haitian immigrants.

Haitians have migrated to the Dominican Republic since the end of that country’s war for independence, although immigration increased significantly in the early to mid 20th century. Immigration has been the result of a combination of political instability and poor economic conditions in Haiti versus the comparative prosperity and economic opportunity of the Dominican Republic. Due to the Dominican Republic’s history with Haiti, cultural differences between the two peoples, and racism, such migration has not been universally well received. In 1937, Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered the massacre of Haitians living in the area of the Dominican border

has not been universally well received. In 1937, Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered the massacre of Haitians living in the area of the Dominican border with Haiti. In a trend that continues to this day, Dominicans who had Haitian ancestry but were born in the Dominican Republic were also targeted. This event is known as the Parsley Massacre. Estimates of the number of victims ranges from the hundreds to the tens of thousands.

Today, the Dominican government is attempting to deport Haitian immigrants and also Dominicans of Haitian ancestry. In 2013, the country’s courts removed the citizenship of hundreds of thousands of Haitian-Dominicans. Facing criticism, the government restored the citizenship of those affected by the aforementioned decision and temporarily stopped deportations for 18 months in order to allow for Dominicans of Haitian descent to establish their citizenship, but critics say the process was made overly complicated in order to hinder the ability of individuals make use of it, and thus Haitian-Dominicans born in the Dominican Republic could still be deported. In the interim, tens of thousands of people fled to Haiti . At the time of the writing of this article, the Dominican government has resumed deportations of those deemed to be in the country illegally.

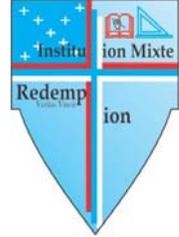
DID YOU KNOW?



When Columbus first saw Haiti (and the entire island of Hispaniola), he thought he had found India or Asia.

St. Peter's International Gift Market

Saturday, November 14, 9am-3pm



Just in time for holiday shopping, St. Peter's International Gift Market will offer unique, handcrafted Fair Trade items from Haiti, Rwanda, and around the world. Items offered for sale will be provided by SERV, a non-profit, fair trade organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. Proceeds from St. Peter's International Gift Market will provide major support to the students at Redemption School, Haiti.

Because our sale will be widely publicized, we are expecting a great response. Please volunteer your help in one or more of the areas listed below by returning this completed form to the church office or by contacting Deacon Helen at dcnhelen@stpetersmedford.org or 856-596-6415. You will be contacted to arrange the hours when you will work.

+++++

Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

I can help prepare for the sale by...

Helping publicize the sale.

- Unpacking & organizing gifts during the week before the sale.
- Helping with set-up & decor before the Sale (Thursday evening; Friday, all day)

I can work on the day of the sale as a...

Table Volunteer (helps customers & answers questions at one or more display tables).

- Floating Volunteer (answer questions, runner)
- Cashier
- Greeter } Security - men especially needed for this job
- Exit Control } Security – men especially needed for this job

I can help after the sale by...

- Helping with Main Clean-up, Saturday, 4 pm until done.
- Helping with final Clean-up, Sunday, 1-3 pm

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Thank you.

Are we looking for you?

The Vestry is looking for: 2 Vestry members; 2 people for the Endowment Board; 3 people and 3 alternates for Convention and 6 people and 6 alternates for Convocation. If you are interested or would like more information about what these positions entail, contact Jennifer Buzby at (609) 442-4640 or via email at jenniferb041658@gmail.com by September 18th.

Save the Date!

September 13th at 10:15 am

Outdoor Eucharist in the back of church followed by Parish Picnic – church will supply hamburgers/rolls, hotdogs/rolls, beverages – please bring the rest of the fixin’s to share.



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.



Over the summer, many parishioners fall behind on their pledges as they are away on weekends. Please be sure your pledge is up to date so that the church’s budget doesn’t fall behind. Thank you!



Sept. 27th at 11:15 am Family Brunch

11:30 am Annual Parish Meeting

If you have never been to an annual meeting, come check it out! Have a delicious breakfast and then get an update on all that has happened in our parish over the past year. It is a great time to hear about opportunities to get involved, vote for new Vestry members, and just get caught up on all the happenings in the parish. Please join us!

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM

This year's Vacation Bible School focused on Haiti. Designed by Sue Legnani, the children learned about the geography, culture and lives of people in Haiti. In the end, the participants learned that as different as they are, people in Haiti have much in common with us, too. *Photos courtesy of Tiffany Myers.*



Guess who?



A group shot of the VBS volunteers and partici-



Father Don presided over the wedding of parishioners Mandy Danser and Brian Hunter in August. *Photo courtesy of Mandy Danser.*

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.

September 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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