



Episcopalian Advocacy

"If we who are Christians participate in the political process and in the public discourse as we are called to do — the New Testament tells us that we are to participate in the life of the polis, in the life of our society — the principle on which Christians must vote is the principle, Does this look like love of neighbor?" – Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, March 2016

This November 8, not only our entire nation but also we as Episcopalians will be heading out to the polls to make our decisions on some important elections – and as Episcopalians, there are many different opportunities to engage in this electoral process. As Episcopalians, we can make our call to care for our neighbors as ourselves by actively engaging the public square.

According to Official Episcopalian policy, voting and political participation recognized as being acts of Christian stewardship, which calls upon congregations to participate in the conversation on issues of public policy, develop voter registration and issue forth education campaigns, and to be an advocate for the protection of voting rights.

A faithful commitment to political participation is in alignment with the Baptismal Covenant's promise to "strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being." There are many ways that parishes and their respective congregations can do to answer the call to engage faithfully in the electoral process.

Important Dates

Tuesday, September 27 is National Voter Registration Day.

October Voter registration closes in many states. In many states, voter registration closes up to 30 days before Election Day. Make sure you know when your state's voter registration closes.

November Absentee and mail-in ballots are due. Most absentee ballots must be postmarked before Election Day. We recommend sending your voted ballot as early as possible to make sure it is received.

Tuesday, November 8 is Election Day!

Prayer for an Election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (or of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Source: <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal/EpiscopaliansVote>

September Calendar Highlights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

WWW.STPETERSMEDFORD.ORG

Sept. 5 Church Office closed

Sept. 11 Sunday School Begins, 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 11 Outdoor Eucharist and Picnic

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

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

Sept. 26 Caps & Laps 1:00 pm

Oct. 2 Annual Meeting following 10:15 service

FROM PULPIT TO PEW

by *The Reverend Canon Donald J. Muller*

It is fall which means the start of a new school year. Even though we know the calendar year starts on January 1, programmatically it begins right after Labor Day. Two of our grandchildren start school before Labor Day, the others after. Most of us remake our schedules, commitments, social plans, etc. around this new beginning each year. While I am not directly involved with getting anyone ready for school, I am conscious of what it was like when I was.

As I think about this new beginning two songs come to mind, Graham Nash's "Teach Your Children" (see page 10) and "Cat's in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin (see page 8). Perhaps it is a sign of my age (why else would I think of these songs) that I look back and see where I messed up or could have done things differently. Nash's song is a positive one looking ahead and Harry Chapin's is the missed opportunities. Maybe both songs could open us to the opportunities and challenges of this new beginning.

What is the code I will live by? What will others see in my life (not just what I say)? My mother was a Sunday School teacher most of her life. She stayed basically with the 3,4, and 5 year olds. My mom would come home telling us some of the most outrageous things the children would say. We knew more about what was going on in those children's homes than you could imagine. Children reflect what they see, hear, and experience. We do indeed teach them by the time we spend with them (Cat's in the Cradle) and what we do and say when we are with them. They in turn teach us, we are all learners. What will we teach them? What will they in turn teach us?

Will we teach them that we are created by a loving God, who wants more for us than we can ask or imagine? Will we teach them that God has made himself known to us through the Bible and through the life (teaching and actions), death, and resurrection of his Son Jesus? Will we teach them that "The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God"? (1979 Book of Common Prayer, The Catechism, page 856)

We can help, that is St. Peter's Church, those who responded at their Baptism: "We will" to the question "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" There is worship every Saturday at 5 pm, and Sunday at 7:45 and 10:15 am (you have permission to go to whichever Service fits into your schedule that weekend). Sunday School for pre-schoolers through High School; and Adult Education for the rest. There is the "Prayer Chain" of people commitment to praying for St. Peter's and all those on our Intercessory Prayer List. There are opportunities to serve God's people in the Church and outside of St. Peter's.

This is a time for all of us to make a new beginning, reorienting our priorities and commitments to say in our words and actions that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

Fr. Don

46. *For the Care of Children* (1979 Book of Common Prayer, page 829)

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with joy and care of children: give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ, *Amen*.

Church And Home

At the end of our Sunday School year last June the children played a trivia “baseball game”. The trivia came from the Sunday School curriculum as well as their knowledge of the Church Year, sacraments, Old and New Testament, geography of the Bible and a favorite category from Jeopardy, Potpourri (questions that didn’t fit in anywhere else). We plan to continue this during the coming year since it proved to be a hit with the kids. But, it also helps us know if we are meeting any benchmarks of learning for the kids who are attending our Sunday School classes. We can make this review fun and encourage the kids to pool their knowledge to play the game. As Christian Formation specialist for Morehouse Publishing, Sharon Pearson wrote in a recent blog: “When it comes to knowledge and experience of the Christian faith, benchmarks can be very helpful. For example, what can one expect a 12-year-old to know about the Bible? What about a 6-year-old? A 30-year-old? Some denominations and churches have mapped out answers to these questions, breaking it down by age group.” We don’t test children to find out what they have learned during the year like they are tested in school, so it’s helpful to know what they know either from their Sunday School class or from home.

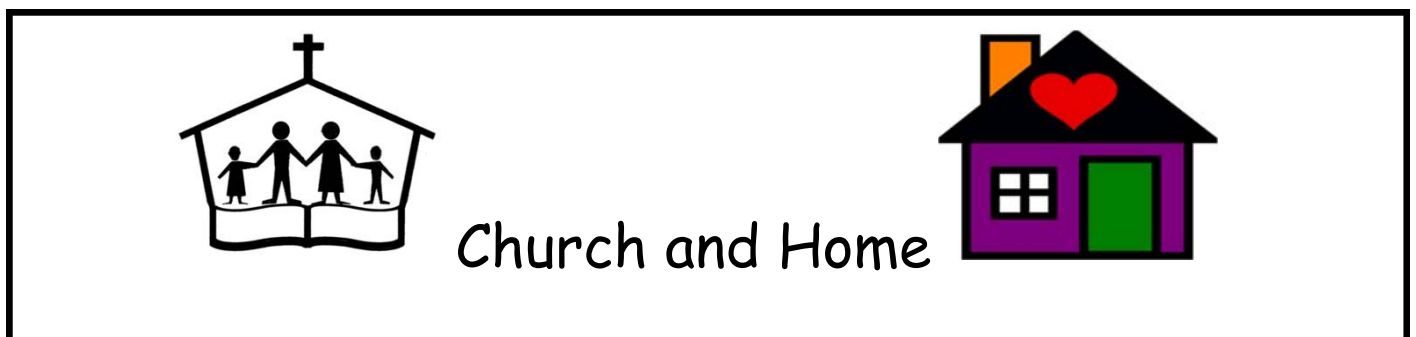
Since the list of learning goals for children that was compiled by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas is too long to put into this article I have posted them on the Christian education page of St. Peter’s website for you to read. I have done this because I feel that both teachers and parents should have an idea of what is age appropriate for each level of our children’s faith formation and whether our Christian education program is providing that exposure to appropriate learning. Keeping in mind that every child is different, there are certain things that they should be exposed to and that the whole church family should know in order to be well informed in our faith. So, please take a look at these learning goals that include more than just facts, but also actions of faith that can take place both inside and outside of church.

One last thought is that Christian education doesn’t happen just during the Sunday School hour on Sunday. It also happens during worship in church. There is a children’s chapel service during the first half of the 10:15 service for children 3 years old to 1st grade. We also have a nursery for younger children. I can tell you from experience with my own children that the more you bring them to church the easier it is for them to feel comfortable with prayer and the liturgy and this will serve them well for the rest of their life.

We look forward to having everyone back on Sunday, September 11th beginning with Sunday School at 9:00 AM!

Sue Legnani

Director of Christian Formation



Body and Soul

By Edith Green, RN

Fall will soon chase summer away. It won't be long until our roads are dotted with long yellow busses taking our children to school. Some mothers of little ones will be happy to have more time for themselves, some will feel sad to see time slipping away. And that's the rub.

Life is not infinite, it's finite. When we're young, we think we'll have all the time in the world to accomplish whatever our dreams are. As we get older, we realize we don't have all the time in the world, we only have whatever time God has allotted us. And it's up to us to use that time wisely.

I'm as guilty as any of you may be in sometimes not using my time as productively as I should. I don't mean to say that watching an enjoyable movie or TV show or reading a good book is wasteful. Of course it isn't. But what about the time and energy you use thinking about your painful past? What about using your time talking to others about negative things, either people or incidents?

What about negative thoughts that follow you around day after day? What about time we spend worrying about what has yet to happen? And, now we're bombarded with political news that is difficult to avoid. How much energy do we use getting angry about the negative things the pundits have to say about the candidate we're supporting. This is one that haunts me this election year.

Groups we belong to that suspended for the summer will soon start up again. Football season is upon us, much to the groans of those who don't like football. Perhaps September is a good time for all of us to take time to reflect on our lives and how we'll use whatever time we have left to pursue our dreams using the talents given us by God.

And Finally: Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

Henry Ford

Dates to Remember

Annual Meeting

Oct. 2nd, 11:15 am Family Brunch

11:30 am Annual Parish Meeting

Peace Initiative

On September 11, from 8:45 AM to 4 PM the Peace Initiative of the Protestant Community Church will sponsor the 15th anniversary vigil in Todd Memorial Park. A bench and shade will be provided near the peace pole in the garden

Those interested in sharing in this event may sign up for a particular half hour by contacting Sally Lavallee at 609-268-0264 or you may come at any time as you are available.

The vigil will remember those who gave their lives that day and to raise them up in peace. It will be followed by a remembrance ceremony presented by the Todd committee at 4:00PM.

DEACON'S BENCH

By Deacon Helen M. Orlando

St. Peter's International Outreach Team Announces...

Second Annual International Gift Market Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 9am – 2 pm

Plans are already in progress for our 2nd Annual International Gift Market, planned to benefit the work of Redemption School in Gonaives, Haiti. We will once again source our merchandise from SERRV, an established, non-profit, fair trade organization whose mission is to eradicate wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. Baskets, scarves, wall décor, dishes and serveware, musical instruments, toys, stocking stuffers, and Christmas décor of all kinds will be available both at the sale and by catalogue order. We will also offer Singing Rooster coffee from Haiti, chocolate, soup mixes, and other food items.

Last year, St. Peter's Gift Market volunteers who normally attend different services got to know each other for the first time and told us how much they enjoyed the experience. Many neighbors of St. Peter's entered our doorways for the first time. And, \$1,158.73 was raised to support the work of Redemption School. We hope to repeat and increase our success this year.

Any large undertaking requires a lot of advance planning. You can help by letting us know that you will be able to help prepare for, run, or clean-up after the sale. A volunteer sign-up offering a variety of available ways to help make this year's Market a success is included in this newsletter. We hope you will use it to offer your help. (You may also contact Deacon Helen personally. Her email & phone number are included on the volunteer request form.)



Last year's International Gift Market

Upcoming Events

FALL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Utilizing the “Serendipity Bible for Groups” we will embark on a study of 13 major stories in the Book of Genesis. For first time Bible students and experienced. Join us on (almost) every Wednesday beginning September 7 and continuing into December. Please read Genesis 1:1-2:3 before attending the first Session on Wednesday, September 7. Wednesdays from 11:00-12:30 pm in the Library of St. Peter’s Church, Medford.

UNABASHEDLY EPISCOPALIAN – Adult Class on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in Moore Chapel beginning September 18. Based on the book “Unabashedly Episcopalian: Proclaiming the Good News of the Episcopal Church” by The Right Reverend Andrew Doyle, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

- Practical, humorous and insightful book by the bishop of one of the most mission and evangelism-minded dioceses in the Episcopal Church
- Ideal for new-member, confirmation, and group study classes, plus lifelong Episcopalians

Episcopalians newly discovering their church home or long-time members who may have forgotten why they love the church will appreciate Unabashedly Episcopalian. Bishop Andy Doyle has mined the Baptismal Covenant and his own experiences leading the Diocese of Texas. The result is a heartfelt, smart and practical book that calls Episcopalians to wake up to the church’s unique gifts and story, and equips them to share that witness in their neighborhoods and out in the world.

PARISH PICNIC - September 11, 2016 at 10:15 am in the back of the church followed by a Parish Picnic – the church will supply hamburgers/rolls, hot dogs/rolls, and beverages – please bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. We also need volunteers to help set up the tables and chairs and clean up. Please let Mandy know if you can help at disneydomer@gmail.com. Thank you.

MINISTRY FAIR - September 17 and 18, 2016. Many tables will be set up for the different ministries of St. Peter’s. Please plan to stop by and sign-up for the ministry that you would like to be a part of.

OLDER ADULTS EVENSONG at Trinity Cathedral at 2:00 pm Saturday, September 24th. Honorees from St. Peter’s are Doris Heintz and Roberta Price. Please pre-register by calling the Diocese, Mary Ann Clissham, 609-394-5281 ext. 10.

BURLINGTON CONVOCATION with Bishop Stokes will be at Christ Church in Palmyra on September 29th at 7:00 pm. All are invited to participate.

PARISH NEWS

September 11th 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.

WHO WANTS TO S.O.A.R.? (Seniors On A Roll)

Are any of you interested in being part of a group meeting monthly at the church to discuss issues of aging? Issues to discuss will be determined by the group. Topics may include nutrition, best foods to keep healthy; down-sizing, is moving to a smaller place a good decision?; spirituality, how does God fit into our lives now?; body changes, will those wrinkles ever go away?; benefits of aging (are there any?)

If this appeals to you, let me know. You can reach me by e-mail edie371@verizon.net.

Please let me know which day and time work best for you. Also any questions you might have. Thanks so much. Edie Green

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Sophia and Madeline Minner, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Minner, August 28, 2016

WEDDINGS

Jenifer Santangelo and Matthew Volpe, August 20, 2016

Desiree Cantarella and James Alessandrini, August 26, 2016

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Joyce DeMore, July 7, 2016

Cat's in the Cradle

By Henry F. Chapin

My child arrived just the other day
He came to the world in the usual way
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay
He learned to walk while I was away
And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
He'd say, "I'm gonna be like you, dad
You know I'm gonna be like you."

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when
But we'll get together then
You know we'll have a good time then."

My son turned ten just the other day
He said, "Thanks for the ball, dad; come on, let's play
Can you teach me to throw?"
I said, "Not today, I got a lot to do."
He said, "That's okay."
And he walked away, but his smile never dimmed
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah
You know I'm gonna be like him."

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Cat's in the Cradle—cont.

Well, he came from college just the other day
So much like a man, I just had to say
"Son, I'm proud of you. Can you sit for a while?"
He shook his head, and he said with a smile
"What I'd really like, dad, is to borrow the car keys
See you later; can I have them please?"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, son?" "I don't know
when
But we'll get together then, dad
You know we'll have a good time then."

I've long since retired, and my son's moved away
I called him up just the other day
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind."
He said, "I'd love to, dad, if I could find the time
You see, my new job's a hassle, and the kid's got the
flu
But it's sure nice talking to you, dad
It's been sure nice talking to you."
And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me
He'd grown up just like me
My boy was just like me

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, son?" "I don't know
when
But we'll get together then, dad
We're gonna have a good time then."



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that our very own Grayson Myers did a masterful job of explaining Haiti's history, economy, government, and often troubled relationship with the Dominican Republic in our March through September 2015 *Good News* newsletters?

Marisa Snyder's Mission Trip



Marisa Snyder (center) prepares to vaccinate a pet in Costa Rica.

Our own Marisa Snyder spent the week of July 16-23, 2016, working in Costa Rica as part of the Christian Veterinary Mission. She describes her experience below:

This photo shows me working with a small Chihuahua at a friendly church in Heredia, Costa Rica for Christian Veterinary Mission. For a week, I vaccinated various animals, including goats, dogs, and cats, against disease. The goats were used by Dr. Bob Wilmarth for his Goats for God program, which gives quality dairy goats to farmers around the country. The dogs and cats helped in the country were pets of the lovely people I met there. I was truly blessed to go on this trip!



Remind Us

God in whose love we are made,
when bread is before us
remind us of the hungry.
When our key is in the door,
remind us of those who have no home.
When the love of family keeps us safe,
remind us of those whose family was the place of
their pain.
When we wonder what it is we can do,
remind us what you said:
“Whenever you feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
welcome the stranger, visit the prisoner,
you do it to me.”
And lead us to do
As you call us to do.
Amen.

— *A Prayer from the Iona Community*

Teach Your Children

by Graham Nash

You who are on the road
Must have a code that you can live by
And so become yourself
Because the past is just a good-bye.
Teach your children well,
Their father's hell did slowly go by,
And feed them on your dreams
The one they picks, the one you'll know by.
Don't you ever ask them why, if they told you, you
will cry,
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you.

And you, of tender years,
Can't know the fears that your elders grew by,
And so please help them with your youth,
They seek the truth before they can die.
Teach your parents well,
Their children's hell will slowly go by,
And feed them on your dreams
The one they picks, the one you'll know by.
Don't you ever ask them why, if they told you, you
will cry,
So just look at them and sigh and know they love you.



Acolyte Trip to
Great Adventure,
July 1st

PARISH PHOTO ALBUM



Top Left: Grayson Myers setting tables at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden, NJ.

Top right, center left, center right: Vacation Bible School 2016 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Photos Courtesy of Tiffany Myers

Right: Cooler of drinks in the gazebo for Pokemon Go players



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 Matt Smith, 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.

September 2016

<i>Episcopalian Advocacy</i>	1
<i>From Pulpit to Pew</i>	2
<i>Church and Home</i>	3
<i>Body & Soul</i>	4
<i>Deacon's Bench</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Evens</i>	6
<i>Parish News</i>	7
<i>Cont. Pulpit to Pew</i>	8
<i>Marisa's Mission Trip</i>	9
<i>Prayers</i>	10
<i>Photo Album</i>	11

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
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