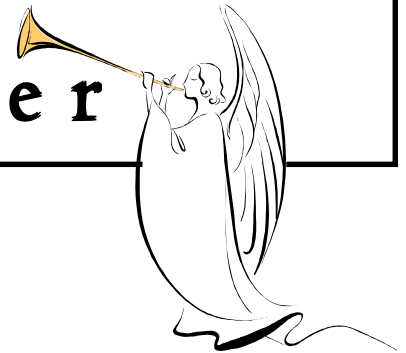


January - February 2010

The Messenger



A TIME FOR FAITH AND LIGHT

As we start a new year and look forward to new possibilities in our lives and in our Church we celebrate the new life that has been once more revealed to us through the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. His star still shines in our lives and His light shines through us as we live out our faith to follow him.

The New Year will bring us challenges and possibilities and it is incumbent upon us to have the faith to see God's hand and God's light in all the things we will face in this New Year.

There is a story about the only survivor of a shipwreck who was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Discouraged, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements and to store his few possessions. One day, after searching for food, he arrived back to find his little hut in flames with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened and everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger and cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" Asked the weary man of his rescuers. They replied, "We saw your smoke signal in the sky."

It's easy to get discouraged when things don't seem to be going well, but we should not lose heart, because God is at work in our lives...even in the midst of challenges and difficulties. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be the smoke signal that summons the grace of God and gives us the hope and new light that we need in our lives for the year we are facing.

So how will you live out your faith this year? Will you live knowing that you walk in God's presence? Will you live in faith this year knowing that God is trying to draw you to himself? May we ask God to open our eyes to his plan for this day and this year. Ask God to help you to strengthen your faith and to help spread his light as you serve him this year. And finally thank God that he is with you today and all of your days – no matter what your circumstances may bring.

May God richly bless you and St. Peter's Church as we walk together in faith.

Fr. Douglas Reans
Interim Rector

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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E-mail: stpetersspotswood@comcast.net ❖ Website: <http://www.stpetersspotswood.org>

Christmas Pageant Re-Scheduled

Due to the snow storm on Dec. 20th, the Christmas Pageant has been rescheduled to Jan. 10th at the 10 a.m. service. There will be a rehearsal on Sat., Jan. 9th at 9 a.m. For more information, please contact Nancy Pertschuk.



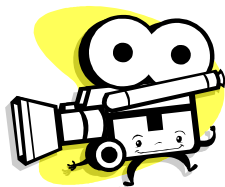
EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY

Fr. Reans will be offering Bible Study on Wednesday Evenings at 7 p.m. after the Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners. The Evening will begin with Evening Prayer followed by a study of Paul's Letters and Journeys. This Bible Study will start Wednesday, January 13th in the classroom above the church office. If there is sufficient interest we will continue this Bible Study after Ash Wednesday into Lent.



Parish Movie Night

The Hospitality/Fellowship Committee presents movie night on Friday, January 15th starting at 6:30 p.m. Free Admission. 3 movies will be shown in the parish hall. Come out for a great night of fellowship!



PROPERTY/CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 15th at 7 p.m.

INQUIRER'S CLASS/ CONFIRMATION CLASS

Beginning on Tuesday the 19th of January, Fr. Reans will be offering classes for those interested in becoming Confirmed or Received by Bishop Romero when he visits on February 21st. The classes will be open to both adults and children and will cover the essentials of understanding The Episcopal Church and basic Christian Beliefs. Classes will be held upstairs above the church office from 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. on Tuesdays. All those youth who are ready for confirmation should try to attend those classes.

Annual



On Sunday, January 31st, we will hold our Annual Parish Meeting after the 10 a.m. service. Refreshments will be served. Nominations are being accepted for 3 vestry members to serve 3 year terms, a 1 year unexpired term as the Jr. Warden and 1 - 2 year term as Sr. Warden. Please give nomination forms (located in the back of the church) to Fr. Reans or to the office. Also being elected are Delegates to Northern Convocation and Deputies to the Diocesan Convention. The Annual Report will be presented with the 2010 Budget. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting. It's a great way to find out what's going on in your parish. **Ministry reports are due by Jan. 18th.**

OFFICE CLOSED

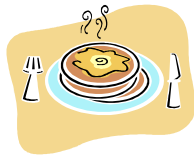
On President's Day, Monday, February 15th the office will be closed.



Lent

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

On Tuesday, February 16th at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall we will be celebrating "Fat" Tuesday in the time honored tradition with a pancake supper. Come join us for some great fellowship and pancakes too!



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES February 17, 2010 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION

Bishop Sylvestre Romero will be visiting our church on Sunday, February 21st at 10 a.m. to Confirm and Receive those who have completed their course of studies. **Please note that there will be 1 service that day.**



The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the Holiday Bazaar in November. Without you it would not have been the success that it was!

VAN DUZER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The deadline for applications to the Van Duzer Scholarship Fund is March 1, 2010. These funds are intended for recent high school graduates entering their first year of study at an accredited post-secondary institution. There are 5 parts to the application. If interested in applying, please go to the diocesan website to download the forms: <http://www.newjersey.anglican.org/Diocese/FundsGrants/VanDuzer/index.html> or contact the parish office.



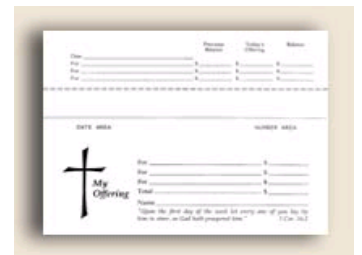
PHONE DIRECTORY

We will be printing a new edition of the Parish Phone Directory after our Annual Meeting. Please let the office know if you are not on our mailing list or the information we have is incorrect.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2010 Offering Envelopes are available in the Bell Tower of the Church. If you do not find one assigned to you, please take one of the unassigned boxes and write your name & address next to the number of the box you take.



One of our big fund-raisers will be a bus trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Strasburg, Pennsylvania for the "Miracle of Christmas" show. Tickets will be \$115.00 for adult, ages 13-18 is \$98.00, for children ages 3-12 is \$78.00 and will include transportation on a luxury bus, 2 1/2 hour show and dinner at The Hershey Farm Restaurant. Price is inclusive of gratuities for bus driver and wait staff and sales tax. The trip will be in December 2010. Currently we have 28 seats of the 50 available seats sold. Please contact Eric Pertschuk.

FROM THE SR. WARDEN

Our profile has been submitted to the Diocese for approval. Once approved, the next step is to prepare the Parish Search Request form and await the names of candidates.

In anticipation of beginning the interview process, several members of the vestry and discernment committee recently attended an Anti-Racism seminar. In it we discussed the need to raise awareness that racism still exists in our society. One of our exercises was to recite the Baptismal Covenant (BCP page 304). We learned that every time we recite it we declare that as Christians we are standing up against racism. We promise to "...seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself" and to "...strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being".

The discernment committee will carry this valuable lesson with them as they meet prospective candidates.

Laura Bonamici

SHOP RITE GIFT CARDS

If you shop at Shop Rite, you could be supporting St. Peter's just by buying gift cards at face value. There is no cost to you and 5% of each card is donated to our church. Cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations and can be purchased in the office during the week or in the sacristy on Sundays.



COHM

Community Of Hope Ministries

Donations of a living room couch & chair and a living room set and twin bed set are needed to help resettle 2 former homeless families in our area. Help in moving these items is also needed. If you can help, please call Dorothy Gabbett, 732-599-0712.

CARETAKER NEEDED

Live in or sleep over caretaker for elderly man living in Monroe Twp. Cooking and companionship needed. Hours flexible. Call Marie at 732-216-3044.

THE SAFEST PLACE HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE WORLD TODAY

1...Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

2...Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

3...Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

4...Avoid traveling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5...Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else avoid hospitals.

But,....

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% Of all deaths occur in worship services in church. (and these are usually related to previous physical disorders).

Therefore...

Logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at Church!

And... Bible Study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible Study is even less!

So,....

Attend church and read your Bible
IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!
God bless you!

BLACK STANDARD POODLE FOR SALE.

Female, 10 weeks old, all whots and wormed. Asking \$600.00. If interested please contact Susie's Grooming, 65 Pine St., Old Bridge, 732-251-050.

January Birthdays

January 1 st	Arthur Campbell III Daniel D'Allessandro
January 3 rd	Ralph Roland
January 4 th	Arthur Campbell IV Emily Jones Kimberly Perez Jack Young
January 7 th	Robert Perez Guerin San Agustin Bobby Wehrle
January 9 th	Kay Marx Jennifer Minkoff
January 10 th	Warren Himich Sarah Kulpa
January 11 th	Bill Makwinski
January 12 th	Joseph Lopez Ryan Silverman Stuart Silverman
January 13 th	Kayla Baker BethAnn Himich Margie Weiland
January 14 th	Denise Jolly
January 15 th	William Heffron David Weiss
January 18 th	Amanda Shelters
January 20 th	Taylor Ferguson Thomas Vanier
January 21 st	James Searle Ella Weiss
January 22 nd	James Correa Joy Kelly Shannon Miller
January 23 rd	Joseph Correa Shealyn Lecorchick
January 24 th	Makenna Babeu Frank Santora Suzanne Wilgus
January 25 th	Angela Gugliotta
January 27 th	Janine Giske
January 28 th	Linda Adams
January 29 th	Felicity Eden
January 31 st	Brianna Perez

January Anniversaries

January 22 nd	Thomas & Georgia Hockenjos
January 29 th	Charles & Janette Borawski



February Birthdays

February 1 st	Lauren Pasquarella Una Makson
February 2 nd	Jonathan Corcoran
February 3 rd	Thomas Gyumolcs Harriet Schmidt Sarah Wisniewski
February 4 th	Douglas Gumprecht Jasmine Jackson
February 5 th	Stanley Pulaski Lynn Wyckoff
February 6 th	Zoe Applegate Augustus Dalfonzo
February 7 th	Marianne Jones
February 8 th	Jessica Grennen
February 9 th	Laura Borawski Gina Gugliotta
February 10 th	Liam Barlow Alexander Bustamante Jessica Harrell
February 11 th	John Hamilton Megan Sinka
February 12 th	Maureen Barlow Mary Heffron
February 13 th	Joseph Baker Eugene Finneran Karen Allen Betty Liddicote
February 14 th	Daniel Benhardt
February 15 th	Kaitlyn D'Allessandro Nancy Willis
February 16 th	Michael Gyumolcs Lou Schmidt
February 17 th	Janice Miller
February 18 th	Melissa Adams Julia Paskell
February 19 th	Katherine Hoyt Nicole Meyers
February 20 th	Brian Shonk
February 21 st	Cherie Spielman
February 24 th	Patricia Campbell Ryan Kalber Bertus Shelters IV
February 25 th	Marissa Brown Deborah Riley
February 28 th	Voula Begley Diana McCarthy
February 29 th	Kai DeGroat

February Anniversaries

February 1 st	Joseph & Barbara Nagy
February 15 th	William & Mary Heffron
February 20 th	Craig & Marissa Brown
February 21 st	Fred & Dianne Dalfonzo