

May-June 2010

The Messenger



Encountering the Spirit

As we enter the Seasons of Easter and Pentecost in these next months we become focused on the life of the Holy Spirit in our Church. Jesus promised his followers that he would send the Spirit (the Comforter) to be with them after his Ascension and on the Day of Pentecost the Spirit came to energize the disciples to go out into the world to tell the Good News about the wonderful work that God had done in sending his Son, Jesus, into the world. They did this with faith and enthusiasm and transformed history. The story of Christianity is the story of human life moved, transformed and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

We too are asked to be attentive to the Spirit moving in our lives. The Spirit touches our lives in many ways. Searching for understanding and authentic human relationships people can meet the spirit of communion and experience the spirit of compassion, gentleness and abundance of life. In times of uncertainty and fearfulness they can draw upon the Spirit of Hope. In times of difficult choices, people can renew themselves with the Spirit of Faith as a spirit that gives fortitude, stability and peace. In lives that are too often overwhelmed with regret, sorrow and guilt we can encounter, thankfully, the Spirit of Forgiveness. Finally we can all endeavor to live in the Spirit of Love in a way that shows the spirit moving joyfully in our lives and in ways in which we share that spirit of love with others.

May the Spirit in this season begin to renew us and inspire us to work to show God's love in all the things we do as a Christian Community. Christians belong to the body and spirit of Christ and that means we belong to each other. It also means we have the privilege and responsibility of ministering to one another. Someone once said that the Church is like a bank: you get nothing out of it until you put something into it. We must look upon the church and the spirit moving in the church not as a fellowship for consumption or entertainment where we get something out of it but as a fellowship of mutual support and investment where we put something into it and receive God's gifts back many fold.

During this Interim period let us be open to the power of the Spirit working in and through our congregation. As we participate and practice the power of Christ's love and new life at St. Peter's may we open our lives to the rich possibilities and blessings that are always available to us through God's Spirit and Power.

May this season be one of hope, renewal and peace for you and your loved ones and may God's Spirit be alive in you.

Fr. Douglas Reans, Interim Rector

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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Discernment News

The Discernment Committee has met on two occasions, and has begun work on an introductory letter to be sent to potential candidates as well as compiling a list of questions to ask the candidates. We are in the process of selecting a visitation team from among the members of the committee. We have been advised by the Diocese that a list of candidates has been reviewed by the Bishop and will be presented to the committee at our meeting on April 22.

Dave Hoyt, Chair

Let's pray for the Discernment Committee:

Lynda Bronzellino, Ed Grobelny, Wayne Hamilton, Dave Hoyt, Nancy Voza-Kulpa, David Persson, Dawn Young and vestry representatives Maria Ferguson, John Grennen and Eric Pertschuk.

From the Desk of Laura Bonamici



As you may recall, the Vestry was again faced with very difficult decisions when setting our budget for 2010. After determining the amount of money we projected to receive in contributions and reducing our expenses as much as possible, while still attempting to serve our Christian mission, we were left with a deficit of approximately \$12,000. About a month ago, you should have received a letter from the Stewardship committee appealing for your help in reducing our budget deficit. We reached out to the St. Peter's community asking for your help by pledging to contribute an additional \$2.00 per week to help minimize the shortfall. I am pleased to report that to date we have received back 28 Giving Appeal forms in the amount of \$4,150. If you have not yet returned your pledge form, on behalf of the Vestry and the Stewardship Committee, I ask you to prayerfully consider doing so today.

As we enter the interview portion of the discernment process please bear in mind that while we are looking for a new Rector, our new Rector is out there looking for a new home. When they look closely at St. Peter's Church and see how committed our parishioners are to its welfare, it sends a wonderful message about who we are. I am proud to be a part of the St. Peter's family and want to thank each of you for all that you do in support of our church.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

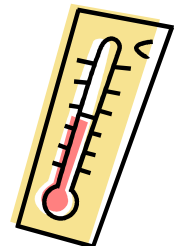
- **Sight & Sound**, Sat. Dec. 4th - SOLD OUT..Thank you.
- **Biggest Loser Contest** - has started, we have approximately 12 people who are trying to lose some Winter weight and look and feel great for the Summer. There is still time, if you are interested please contact Diane Chiarella (732-521-3613). The contest is open to singles or teams. This will be a 4 month long contest to see which person/team losses the most weight. Prizes will include a pair of 3 month VIP memberships to WOW (Work Out World) on Route 18 and or a 6 month VIP membership to SNAP Fitness in Spotswood. Also everyone who signs up will receive a 1, 5, or 8 day trial membership to WOW.
- **Advertising** -Does anyone own their own business? Why not advertise in our own 'newspaper'? See the Fund-raising Committee for details.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** - 2nd Annual Somerset Patriots Baseball Picnic will be on August 28th. There will be FIREWORKS, Great food, Great seats and mostly a Great time!!! The St. Peter's Children's Choir will again be singing the National Anthem. Also there are single game seats available ALL Spring and Summer at discounted prices.
- There are St. Peter's T-shirts and sweatshirts available in ALL sizes. T-shirts are \$10 and the sweatshirts are \$19
- Please continue to utilize the ShopRite food cards.

The Fund-raising Committee is looking for FUN and energetic people to join us, please contact Eric Pertschuk.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

March Income	\$18,332	YTD Income	\$54,992
March Expenses	\$18,364	YTD Expenses	\$57,664
Difference	-\$33		-\$2,672

Check out the thermometer in the Bell Tower to see how the progress on closing the budget gap is going. Our thanks to all those who responded to the appeal for an additional \$2 per week. There's still time to make a difference!



Sunday School

Another Sunday School year is coming to an end and we invite all parents and children to Awards Sunday on June 6th at the 10:00am service. After the service, we will be having a "Make Your Own Sundae" party and enjoy some fellowship before the summer months. I will say "what a year this has been"! I've enjoyed the children so much! Whew, first year behind me! I wish to thank everyone for all their support - which I have definitely needed and gratefully accepted. To all the children, I hope it's been a year filled with learning about our faith along with some fun times shared with your teachers and classmates. To the teachers, I am so thankful for each and every one of you. Wouldn't have made it through this year without you! My life has been truly blessed by working so closely with you. The support has been there every step of the way! A special "thank you" goes out to Gail Gumprecht who has given 5 years of service to teaching our children and has decided to take a break. Gail, we thank you for all you have given to our children over the years. To Father Doug and Sarah - thank you for the confidence and support you have given me during this process.

Nancy Pertschuk

Communion Sunday/Children's Liturgy

Our Second Grade Sunday School class will be celebrating the completion of their studies with a special Communion Sunday service on May 23rd at the 10 a.m. service. They will be meeting on Sat., May 8th at 10 a.m. to create their Family Banners and rehearse in the church. Congratulations to Abby Caffrey, Angela Gugliotta, Sarah Kulpa, Kaitlyn Perez, Dillon Podlesny and Frank Santora.

Sunday School Registration On-Line

We ask that you register your children for the upcoming 2010/11 school year. You may register online at our website. Go to the bottom of the "Children's Ministries" page. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the office for a registration form. It is **important** to pre-register so that we can determine the amount of materials to order for classes as well as special activities and so our teachers can prepare accordingly. **PLEASE BE SURE TO PUT "YES" OR "NO" ON THE BOTTOM LINE OF THE FORM**". We need your permission to use photos of your children in print or online.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Meets 1st & 3rd Fridays at the home of Nancie McTaggart from 10:30-11:30 a.m.



There will be a Mother's Day breakfast between the 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. services on Sunday, May 9th to honor the moms in our parish. Please see Bob Ferguson if you can volunteer to set up, cook, serve or clean up. Join us! Contact Bob at robertjohnferguson@gmail.com to lend your support.

Vacation Time is Coming!

The summer months will soon be upon us, and many of us are looking forward to vacations and holidays. Unfortunately, our expenses do not take vacations and holidays so summertime presents a financial challenge for the parish. If you are going to be away, please consider mailing your giving envelope before you leave. Thank you for your continued support of St. Peter's.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

We welcome to our Worship Ministries Team as ushers Eric Pertschuk, Diane Chiarella and Ken Kazar (welcome back, Ken). We also welcome as new Lectors Nicole Kazar, William Andrews and Maelisa Donaldson. Our worship ministers (acolytes, LEMs, lectors and ushers) are an important part of our worship experience. Thank you to all who help. If you are interested in becoming an acolyte, please contact Keith Gabbett, a lector, contact Don Tonkin, a LEM, contact Fr. Doug or an usher, contact John Hamilton.

GOOD NEWS!!

Rich & LuAnn Goglia announce the engagement of their daughter Adrian to Danny Osofsky. They're planning a June 2011 wedding. Congratulations!



Accepted into the Episcopal Visual Arts Display at the Cathedral in Trenton March 27-May 21st entitled "This Fragile Earth" is a photograph by Sarah Wisniewski of the coastline of California.

Anne Carthy continues her ministry by sharing her gift of music 3-4 days a month by playing piano and leading singing at local nursing homes.



MINISTRY FAIR

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 16, when the St. Peter's Ministry Fair will take place in the Parish Hall. This event will be held between the 8:00 and 10:00 services, as well as following the 10:00 service.

The Ministry Fair is a great way to learn about all we do to support the parish and our community. It is also a chance for the various committees to interact with parishioners, attract new members and sign people up for upcoming events and opportunities.

Please come and see your church at work! Refreshments will be provided. We will be accepting donations of non-perishable food for C.U.P.



Transportation/10:00 Service

Ann Carthy
275B Milford Lane
Rossmoor
Monroe, New Jersey 08831

Ann is a member of St Peter's who enjoys coming to church but does not drive. Keith and Dorothy Gabbett and myself take turns bringing Ann to Church. She calls on Fridays to confirm if she will be attending on Sunday. Please let me know if you can join our car-pool. Contact Alice Meyers (atm3164@yahoo.com)

Reflections from the School for Deacons

It's hard for me to believe but my first year in the School for Deacons is quickly coming to a close. By the time you read this article, my classes will be over and I will be preparing for an interview with the Committee on the Diaconate who will decide whether I should move on to 'Postulancy' the next step in the process. There is a saying that often goes with each of these decision steps – "God willing and with the peoples' consent". I ask for prayers from each of you as I am considered for this next step on the journey.

So, what did I learn this first year? I have completed 6 courses during this first year, read more than 1 dozen books (I actually lost track of how many), written 9 papers, and completed a special project on the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King. I wish that everyone at St. Peter's had the opportunity to sit in on these classes. Not only have they been informative but the experience has helped me grow and become more grounded in my faith.

Even though you were not there with me during the year, all is not lost. On Wednesday nights during the month of May I will be offering a brief look at some of the courses I took this year. So I invite you to join me in the Rectory starting May 5 at 7 PM for the first 1 hour session where we'll be looking at "Reformation History". See you then.

Ted Foley



Thank you to everyone who generously donated candy for our easter egg hunt. Thanks to the youth group, Mr and Mrs Tonkin for their donation of flowers, and to Amanda, Colleen, Will, Katy, Dan, Laura, Nicole, Frank, Rosemary, Sue and Pam for their help at the hunt.

Chris Kazar

To the PROPERTY COMMITTEE and ALL of the VOLUNTEERS

who gave so much of their time and muscle this past winter to keep St. Peter's accessible and operating in spite of Mother Nature's efforts to make Central NJ into one large ski resort. Thank you for the work that you do all year round to keep our beautiful church and properties operating and in such good shape.

The Pertschuk family would like to thank our St. Peter's Family for your support and prayers for our son, Charles Aquadro. We would not have gotten through the emotional roller coaster of the last few months without our family at St. Peter's. Charles has graduated from Technical School in Mississippi, with honors, and is in the process of coming home for a visit before being stationed in Virginia. We know that he has missed St. Peter's and will enjoy being able to attend services while he is home. Our adventure is really just beginning and we know that he will do well with his Air Force career. Thank you all for your prayers and good wishes!



Community of Hope Ministries

Community of Hope Ministries (COHM) is an all volunteer ministry dedicated to serve those in need in Spotswood and the surrounding communities. Community of Hope was started in 2005 by Fr. Charles Lochner, former pastor of St. Peter's Church, Spotswood. Since its inception, COHM has steadily grown as the needs of the community have grown. This has been particularly true during the current recession where so many of our friends and neighbors are unemployed or underemployed.

Recently, Community of Hope decided to open up the membership of its Board of Trustees to the 4 other churches in town. This decision reflects the reality that many of our ministries (particularly the CUP Food Pantry) are already being supported by all 5 congregations. It also reflects our unified Christian commitment to living out the Gospel of Jesus that we all hold in common.

One of our goals is to bring you news and updates about our ministries on a regular basis. In the meantime, I encourage you to contact Ralph Evans, your official representative on our Board, so you can find out more about COHM or how you can participate in this worthwhile ministry. Otherwise, you can call us at 732-967-4883 or visit us on our website: <http://stpetersspotswood.org/cohm.htm>. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW.....

During the first quarter the Community of Hope Ministries have:

- Solicited funds in order to prevent eviction
- Assisted several clients with problems with medicare, medicaid and Family Care
- Linked client(s) with free medical and dental services
- Assisted client with resume which lead to a part time job
- Linked client with nutritional counseling
- Linked client with home visitor
- Obtained pet food
- Served 1,228 at the Community Fellowship Suppers
- Had 246 people volunteer.
- Assisted 993 people with food from the Food Pantry.



WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us on Monday nights at 6 PM in the Church for about 30 minutes of prayer time. In addition to a scripture reading and time for individual intercessions, there will be plenty of time set aside to pray for our congregation, our Rector, and our vestry. Come every week, come occasionally, or only once. We're not asking for a commitment. Only your presence. If you would like to know more, please contact Ted Foley.



COFFEE HOUR

Join us for Coffee Hour every Sunday between the 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. services. If you would like to host a coffee hour, please see Alice Meyers for details and sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall.

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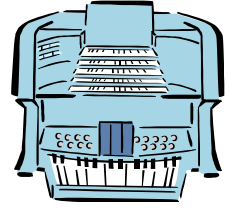
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ORGAN DEDICATION

Please put on your calendars the date of June 6th at 4:00 p.m. for the Dedication Concert for our new organ. Gordon Gunzellman and Arlene Miller will play selections to demonstrate the organ and dedicate it's use for our church. A covered dish dinner will follow the concert in the Parish Hall. Please watch for further information on this event.



A "Hero" will save us
By Martin J. Spielman, Jr.

I've always found the symbolism and storytelling of pop music to be fascinating. Since my over stimulated teen years KISS has always been my favorite group. I always laughed when their music parodied the media, but mostly their music was very much always about the subjects normally bouncing around in an over stimulated teen's brain.

Of course other groups try to be more subtle and some of the themes and conjured images are downright worrisome. Take for example the song "Hero" by Nickelback from the soundtrack of the first Spiderman movie. On the surface I was thinking "Hero," Spiderman, that worked ok, but then I listened harder to the lyrics, and realized that there appeared to be some anti-Christian rhetoric woven into the song.

In the song the singer is saved by an eagle. I graduated from Edison high and our mascot was the eagle, so far, so good. Or it could be an allusion to J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth trilogy in which the hero of that trilogy is saved from certain death by an eagle. But the song's concept becomes more of a concern as it progresses.

Someone told me "Love" would all save us, but how could that be look what "Love" gave us. A world full of killing and blood spilling, that world never came.

If we follow the thought pattern that "Love" here refers to God's love.....

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Then what we have is Nickelback saying that Christian devotion is a failure because it has not yet lived up to the songwriter's theory as to its true promise and that we should flee from "Love."

My main issue with that concept is that it fails to consider freewill. God and devotion are not failures; it is more of an issue of humans and their weakness for the material that have held us back from reaching an idealized society. Jesus suggested that we lead a simple life,¹ but we wanted skyscrapers, malls, and 401k's.

So perhaps what the writer is really doing is pointing out to us where we have gone wrong and to warn us against our own greed. We've populated the Earth, and then some. We've gone to the Moon, and further still. But perhaps what we haven't explored near enough is our faith, our inner love. We have been very faithful to things that we can hold, count and photograph on our iphones. Maybe its time we spend a little more time exploring what's inside, looking once more for that "Love" of olden times.

¹ Consider the ravens, that they sow not, neither reap; which have no store-chamber nor barn; and God feedeth them: of how much more value are ye than the birds! Luke 12:24

May Birthdays

May 1 st	Matthew Bransky
May 3 rd	Emma Jones
May 4 th	Virginia Britt Nicole Donnamaria
May 5 th	Kiera Kelly Michael Powell Phyllis Powell
May 7 th	Susan Hoyt
May 8 th	Lindsey Pepe
May 9 th	Joseph Gyumolcs
May 10 th	Natalie Kazar
May 11 th	Brenda Laryea
May 12 th	Nancie McTaggart Margaret Jackson Becky Martindell Jennifer Persson
May 13 th	Raymond Paprota Lynn Shelters Theodore Spielman
May 14 th	Steven Minkoff
May 15 th	Robert Perrini Jonathan Weiland
May 18 th	Ray Acquista Matthew Dmitrzak Christopher Meyers Cathy Orifice
May 19 th	Carter Quigley
May 20 th	Chad Hockenjos Russell McKay David Persson Helen Richardson
May 21 st	Raymond Sanders
May 23 rd	Kyle Patton Jennifer Shonk Betty VanDyke
May 24 th	James Caffrey Luke Hagen
May 26 th	Dorothy Gabbett Chelsea Gale Bobbin Paskell Adam Scire
May 27 th	Ashley McCoy Maria Ferguson
May 29 th	Dylan Evans
May 30 th	Michele Bransky Judy Evans
May 31 st	David Hoyt Jean Marczak Alexander Spielman Ian Wheeler



June Birthdays

June 2 nd	Nicholas Jackson Amber Marfitt Scott Miller
June 3 rd	Jayvis Rayside
June 4 th	Kevin Grennen Georgia Hockenjos Christopher Riley Daniel Shelters Brandon Spielman
June 6 th	Dan Gugliotta Jason Laryea
June 7 th	Arlene Miller
June 8 th	Nichole Fleck Alice Ryan Sam Saffioti Martin Spielman
June 10 th	Colleen Sanders
June 11 th	Denise Acquista Jim Martindell
June 14 th	June Klem Charles Reid
June 15 th	John Loughran Eleanor Stocker
June 16 th	LuAnn Goglia Nathan Jolly Richard Latyn
June 17 th	Brittany Pulaski Peggy Quaglietta
June 18 th	Leo Babeu Laura Bonamici
June 20 th	Sean Paskell
June 21 st	Brian Dougherty
June 22 nd	Elise Jones
June 23 rd	Ted Foley Jaidyn Santora
June 24 th	Judi Tarkany
June 25 th	Alberta Boshko
June 26 th	Andrea Mennitt
June 27 th	Rosita Hamilton Debbie Newman
June 28 th	Anne Donaldson Bob Donaldson Tracy Evans
June 29 th	Arlene Taylor
June 30 th	Richard Twomey Ethan Hood

May Anniversaries

May 7 th	Dan & Carolyn Gugliotta
May 8 th	Mike & Shirley Clementi
May 18 th	John & Veronica Hagen
May 25 th	David & Maelisa Donaldson Richard & Erynn Patterson
May 26 th	George & LeeAnn Poko
May 30 th	Michael & Luann Bettin Richard & Erynn Patterson George & LeeAnn Poko
May 30 th	Michael & Luann Bettin



June Anniversaries

June 14 th	Steve & Bobbin Paskell
June 18 th	Richard & Lynda Bronzellino Paul & Nancy Sarnak Walter & Nancy Willis
June 23 rd	Ray & Denise Acquista
June 25 th	David & Dawn Young
June 26 th	Donald & Barbara Tonkin
June 29 th	Walter & Mary Ann Popleik
June 30 th	Becky & Jim Martindell Nelson & Phyllis Powell