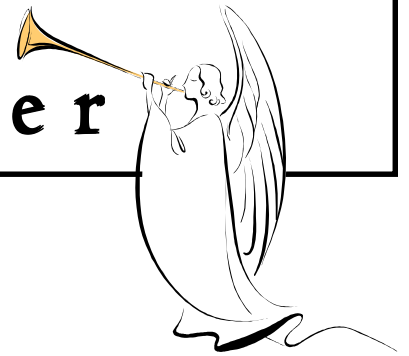


September - October 2009

The Messenger



WHAT'S NEW ?

I asked someone the other day, "How are things going?" He replied, "All right, I guess. Nothing's happened today!"

There are some days when it does seem that nothing happens. But are there really any such days? God is always at work in our world and in our lives. When we look around us and really seek to see God at work, we will find that the sick are always being healed, people are always being saved, and lives are being blessed. The Holy Spirit is always offering leadership, vision and guidance. God is always at work in the lives of His children. We may not always recognize what He is doing and many things may happen that we don't understand. But God is always there!

Have you counted your blessings lately? Has God been doing something in your life? As we start this Fall another Church Year of activities you will have many opportunities to see God's activities and, if you choose, to join in and be a part of God's actions in this world. We hope that you will consider how you can be a part of God's happenings here at St. Peter's Church and that you will choose to let God lead you into new paths of sharing and learning through the various possibilities for service and growth that are offered in this parish.

During this interim time it is important for all of us to keep on growing and participating in the activities and many possibilities that are open to us here at St. Peter's Church. As we share and are active in the life of the church we then can become more and more aware of the presence of God and of the direction He is leading us both in our lives and in our parish.

Look around you this week...this Fall...see what is happening! Notice the changes that are occurring in your own life and in the lives of those around you, and see that God is at work. Let us join in and help to build God's Kingdom!

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Douglas Reans, Interim Rector

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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The Senior Warden's Report

St. Peter's never sleeps! The Self-Study committee, chaired by Diane Chiarella, has spent the summer working diligently on the Parish Profile which will introduce St. Peter's to potential new rectors. An important component of the profile is the survey which will be ready for the congregation to complete in church on "Welcome Back Sunday". Also, our Jr. Warden, Sam Mastorio and the property committee have completed many projects around the church but as with all older properties there is always more to do. If you are interested in helping with any projects please contact Sam at 732-416-9215. Thanks to everyone who generously donates their time to St. Peter's.

Laura Bonamici

National Night Out



Tuesday August 4 was a great night for Spotswood and for the CUP Food Pantry. Spotswood's local National Night Out program was held at the Municipal Center and was attended by several hundred members of the community. While the evening focused on awareness for crime and drug prevention a strong spirit of community came through. This community spirit was most apparent in the generosity shown to the CUP Food Pantry. Attendees were asked to bring a non-perishable food item which was donated to CUP as were all proceeds from the raffle and the "dunk tank". In addition to the generosity of the community CUP received donations from 711 Corporation, 711 of Oldstage Road, and Synergy Bank. In total CUP received \$1200 and almost 1200 items of food. The Community of Hope Ministries thanks everyone who donated. In particular ours thanks go out to Mayor Tom Barlow for coming up with the idea and Maureen Barlow for her unending energy in making it such a success.

Ted Foley

Hospitality ~ Fellowship



Welcome Back Sunday 9/13/09

Mark your calendars for a very important day at St. Peter's. We will celebrate the first day of Sunday School, at 9 a.m.; completing the church questionnaire; and have good food, games, and fellowship at the picnic. Sign up sheets are in the back of the church for desserts or that special side dish.

During the picnic bring your creativity for the salad bar challenge. There will be 2 divisions: under 14 and 14+. All ingredients will be supplied. We have managed to get a very renowned unbiased judge.

Grilling will be done by our own top rated chefs. After this delicious meal it is time for fun and games.

Music will be supplied by The Reans in the form of karaoke. Mary has volunteered to teach us how to shake and bake it.

Games will be lead by the Meyer's with fun for all ages. Stay and enjoy: hula-hoop spin, sack race, balloon toss, and dress up race.

Marty Spielman is in charge of set up and take down. He can use a lot of helping hands. Setup will start at 8:15.

Coffee Hour



Please continue to join us for refreshments and fellowship between the early and late services at 9am to 10am. Our September thru June sign up sheets are now available in the bell tower. The Hospitality/Fellowship Ministry supplies all paper goods and coffee/tea. All you need to do is set up between 8:30 and 8:45. Instructions are available. Also bring finger food goodies and any other beverages.



Harvest Party/Chili Cook Off Last Weekend before Halloween

Come and join us for a really fun afternoon in the parish hall. Watch for future announcements.

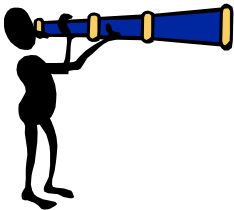


Discernment Process Update

The Self Study Committee recently met with our Transition Consultant who provided us his feedback on the survey that will be presented to all parishoners (ages 14 and up) at the 9:00 AM service on Welcome Back Sunday, September 13, 2009. He also provided us with guidance regarding the next stage of the Self Study process which will include Cottage Meetings. These short meetings will give everyone an opportunity to discuss the conclusions drawn from the surveys and allow the congregation another opportunity to participate in the process of searching for a new rector! You will be hearing more about these meetings, and how you can sign up, in the coming weeks.

As a reminder, if you, or someone you know, are unable to attend church on September 13th, please be sure to contact Diane Chiarella before September 9th in order to make arrangements to have a survey mailed to your home. You can reach Diane by phone at 732-521-3613 or 732-589-4303 and by e-mail at dchia1022@aol.com. Surveys will be mailed out on September 11th and must be mailed back no later than September 16th. Please keep in mind that surveys will be completed individually, so be sure to request one for every member of your family (age 14 and older) when you contact Diane. Surveys will be mailed separately to each eligible member to maintain confidentiality. It is our goal to have everyone complete a survey, but we will need your help in order to accomplish this. Remember, the information collected from these surveys is what we will use to help generate our parish profile which will be seen by all prospective applicants for our new rector.

Please note that Welcome Back Sunday is also the first day of Sunday School. Sunday School will begin at 9:00 AM that week. Students ages 14 and up will be dismissed early, so that they can be in church to complete their survey with the rest of the congregation. Teachers will be given surveys that morning to complete at home and return by mail.



Thank you

From SPYO

Our 2008-2009 year would not be complete without our thanks to the people of St. Peter's'. Your participation, help, donations and overall support made our year great. You make our Community Service and Fun possible; without you behind us we would never be able to accomplish what we do.

To our parents and families a BIG Thank You for your help and support; for getting us where we needed to be and participating in events when asked.

This year we were able to make donations to the Food Pantry, Wednesday Night Dinners, Easter Egg Hunt and supply needs for our 'Friendship Baskets'. We also helped with the Italian Dinner and provided babysitting for the Wine Tasting.

In August (the hottest days of the summer) SPYO went to Hershey Park for an overnight stay. Almost everyone was able to go – those that were not, were missed; the 22 people making the trip included drivers and chaperones. Special thanks to Maria Ferguson, Chris Kazar, Rosemary D'Allesandro, Ray Sanders and Eric Pertschuk for joining the adventure.

Your opinions on what we do are welcome. Please let SPYO know what you think.

Also, anyone interested in joining SPYO, please speak to any member or come a meeting. The first meeting for the new year is on September 20, following the 10:00 service. Anyone in 7th grade through high school is welcome, as are friends of members.

Again, Thank You All

Suzanne Wilgus
Group Leader

Samantha Young
President
2008-2009

Nicole Kazar
Secretary
2008-2009



INKJET RECYCLING

Don't forget to bring in your empty inkjet cartridges for recycling and to raise money to support our ministries. There is a collection box in the Bell Tower of the church or you can bring to the office during the week. You can also support us by bringing in your cartridges from work. Help us and the environment at the same time!



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop will re-open on Tuesday, Sept. 8th at 10 a.m. Donations are accepted during regular hours

of operation: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Weds. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is an important outreach ministry in our community as well as an important source of income for our parish. Volunteers are **ALWAYS WELCOME**, and especially needed on Tuesdays 10 - 2 p.m. or the 3rd, 4th or 5th Saturday of the month, 10 - 1 p.m.

THANK YOU!

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who came out to the Patriots picnic and for making it such a success. A special thank you to Arlene Miller and Sandy Donaldson for leading and assisting with the Children's Choir who sang at the game. Pictures have been posted to the photo page of our web: www.stpetersspotswood.org. If you have any picture you'd like to share, please email them to the office.



Happy 50th Anniversary

Lou & Harriet Schmidt!!

Lou & Harriet were married 50 years ago on September 19th right here at St. Peter's Church.

Congratulations!

ST. PETER'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR

November 29th
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



- ◆ *Pictures with Santa*
- ◆ *Kids Crafts*
- ◆ *Raffles*
- ◆ *Vendors & Crafters*
- ◆ *Bake Sale & Kitchen*
- ◆ *and much much more!!!*

If you or someone you know would like to rent a 6 ft. table or 1 of the 5 rooms (includes 1 - 8 ft. table) that are available, please contact the office. It's first come, first served.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, work during the bazaar and to help clean up. If you can help out, please contact Eric Pertschuk. Donations of new items are requested for the Raffle Table.

I would like to thank everyone in our parish family for all the prayers and caring during my recent illness and surgery. It was so comforting to know all that positive energy was surrounding me during such a stressful time. Believe me, I felt it and I am so grateful.

The prognosis is good and you have my heartfelt thanks.

Marilyn Hamilton

Prayer List

In an effort to keep the prayer list up to date, if it has not been requested to keep them permanently on the list or I am not aware of their circumstances, names will be removed. Names can be reinstated if needed by calling or emailing the office.

Sarah

Sunday School!

Don't miss out! It's not too late to sign your children up for the 2009-2010 Sunday School year at St. Peter's! With wonderful teachers and a great curriculum, the children will enjoy the teachings of the Episcopal faith in a way that is geared specifically to their age group. Come join us for an exciting Sunday School year!

Nancy Pertschuk

September Birthdays

1st James Jones III
2nd Judy Fenton
3rd Craig Brown
4th Jenna Grobelny
Amanda Ragaglia
5th Olivia Klem
Ceri Miller
Doris Thorne
Dorothy Wysel
6th Mike Clementi
9th Frank Klem
Scott Loughran
10th Kerry Alai-Chiarella
12th Nina Bustamante
Pamela Mason
Joseph Meyers
13th Mike Dvorak
Grace Pollock
14th Lucas Hoyt
Jayvis Rayside
15th Makenna San Agustin
16th Michelle Cano
Steven Gordon
17th Megan Bonamici
Kathie Evans
Mary Paprota
Vicki Rosario
18th Tracey Patufka
19th Lynda Bronzellino
Heather Weiland
20th Melissa Bonamici
21st Thomas Barlow
Thomas Britt
22nd Kate Budrow
Jennifer Evans
Mary Ann Grennen
Mark Hoyt
Zachary Klem
24th Scott Gordon
Nikolas Paskell
Paul Sarnak
Zachary Scire
25th Kai Hagen
26th Walter Popleik
Carolyn Thompson
28th Rosalie Quaglietta
Amy Wheeler
29th Robert Ferguson
Megan Murray
30th Angie Fatum
Wayne Hamilton



September Anniversaries

1st Dennis & Pat Scire
6th Christopher & Deborah Riley
9th Paul & Nancy Kulpa
Carl & Amy Wheeler
11th Richard & Kerri Dvorak
14th John & Mary Ann Grennen
Grover & Gertrude Ivins
Robert & Kimberly Perez
17th Darryl & Denise Jolly

October Birthdays

1st James Mennitt
LeeAnn Poko
3rd John Grennen
Scotty McTaggart
Dylan Scire
Robert Wyckoff
4th Debra Hamilton
5th Danielle Hamilton
6th Martine Baker
7th Glenn Kalber
Julie Pulaski
9th Bob Benhardt
Bertus Shelters
10th Kieran Barlow
Ralph Evans Jr.
Stephen Powell
11th Sandra Reti
13th Scott Harrell
14th Carl Wheeler
Norma Wyckoff
15th Ken Kazar
Brielle Rayside
16th Jeffrey Shelters
17th Craig Hoover
Joseph Patton
Grace Spielman
18th Cory Acquista
19th Brett Fagan
Melissa Pertschuk
23rd Casey Fenton
Lauren Jerscheid
Patricia Osbahr
24th Jayde Gildea
Leah Harrell
25th Veronica Hagen
Caroline Jones
26th Judy Maniscalki
28th Victoria Heffron
31st Anne Carthy

October Anniversaries

1st Wayne & Debra Hamilton
2nd Paxton & Debra Jerscheid
12th Thomas & Tina Porcelli
13th James & Marianne Jones
Michael & Diana McCarthy
Bertus & Lynn Shelters
15th John & Nancie McTaggart
16th Kenneth & Christine Kazar
20th Ted & Kathy Foley

19th Louis & Harriet Schmidt
20th Kenneth & Patricia Irons
21st Frank & June Klem
22nd William & Gladys D'Onofrio
Paul & Sharon Gale
26th Martin & Cherie Spielman
27th Kirk & Laura Bonamici

Noteworthy News



As I sit and write for this edition of the newsletter, I am somewhat at a loss of words.

Thank You cannot even begin to express the heartfelt feelings of how pleased I am with the support that was put forth for the new organ, which was much needed and installed this summer. The technician still has much work to do to get the "sound" to our specifications, and the speaker system has to be put in place, but it is coming along nicely. Thank you again to all that have supported this effort for the Music Ministry.

Speaking of Music Ministry, have you thought of how you give of your time and talent?

One way to help spread the word of the Lord is through Music. The choirs are a very important role in helping to lead and spread the word through the chanting of the Psalms, singing of the hymns, anthems, and through instrumental music that is reflective for meditation before, during, and after the service. Please take time to consider participating in this ministry of the church. I have enclosed the times of rehearsals. Come give it a try, you just might like it! Rehearsals will begin starting Sunday, September 20th.

Adult Choir rehearsal – Sunday morning 9:15 am

Children's Choir rehearsal – Sunday morning 11:15 am

Chime Choir – Monday evenings 7:30 pm

I would like to share how September to me is like New Year's. It is a time of new beginnings because the school year starts. It is a time of renewal. Anything can be made possible with determination, a willing heart, and the faith that is shared. Come share with me this Fall and help to make a difference in someone's life by spreading the word of the Lord through music and song. Remember... when you sing you pray twice!

Blessings,
Arlene Miller
Music Director