

November - December 2010

The Messenger



We are celebrating the feast of the Eternal Birth which God the Father has borne and never ceases to bear in all eternity... But if it takes not place in me, what avails it? Everything lies in this, that it should take place in me.

Meister Eckhart (ca. 13th century)

A couple of days ago I was heading into the Wednesday night Community Supper. One of our regular guests was making her way from her car to the steps, and as we met on our way to the door we exchanged pleasantries. "Good evening...Yes, it is, isn't it?...I love this time of year, with the leaves changing color and the days getting cooler...I agree, I don't think I could live in a place without seasons...." It was then that the warmth of the Parish Hall, and the joyful noise of the supper guests took over and we parted. Still, I am holding this encounter before me as I look back on my first weeks with you as your new priest, and as I anticipate entering a new liturgical year in service to the parish of St. Peter's, Spotswood. God willing, this first Advent will be one of many we mark together, celebrating the First Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ even as we wait for the Second Advent of his return.

Seasons mean a great deal to me, both in the natural and liturgical meaning of the word. Physically, the natural world leads us from periods of new growth into dormancy and back again. Days grow shorter and longer while the moon waxes and wanes. All of creations marks time, even living beings make their own way through the seasons of life, from birth to death. Similarly, the liturgical year leads us through time as well in a circular pilgrimage from the marking of Christ's birth (Advent and Christmas), to his being revealed as the Messiah (Epiphany), from his earthly ministry in Galilee to his journey to the Cross (Lent and Holy Week) and finally from the celebration of his Resurrection (Eastertide) to the birth and growth of his Body, the Church (Pentecost and beyond).

Meister Eckhart's above assertion, that when the season of Advent rolls around, it is not just a time to celebrate and mark an external change in our relationship to God; it is also an annual invitation to allow our own, inner rebirth in the celebration of Christ's Incarnation. Small wonder that it takes us four weeks of prayer and preparation, swathed in purple, to "heed the Baptist's cry" and note the birth of the Promised One.

I am learning how the community of St. Peter's marks beginnings as we start to meet and learn about each other. This season marks the work of service in the collection of food and gifts for the hungry and hopeful. There is worship and praise. There is preparation for the coming year as we celebrate a season of commitment with our pledges of our time, talents and resources for the support ministries of the Church. There is celebration as we mark the end of a long search for a pastoral connection between parish and priest, and the beginning of something new and fresh for all of us.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

505 Main Street ❖ Spotswood, New Jersey 08884

732-251-2449 ❖ Fax: 732-251-4019 ❖ Pastoral Emergencies: 732-539-2535 ❖ Thrift Shop: 732-251-4113

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In that vein, please make time in the coming weeks to reach out to your friends and neighbors. Let them know that they are welcome here at St. Peter's. This is a welcoming place. I can tell you that as one whose family was recently welcomed to the community. Also, mark your calendars for December 19th, as we hope that day to welcome our Bishop, George and offer to God a celebration of New Ministry formally with a service of installation and a celebratory supper.

So much to do! So much to experience! Please receive these following pages as an invitation to bite deeply into the life of Christ here at St. Peter's during Advent and Christmas. May God bless us and keep us in this new and holy beginning!

-Fr. Marshall

From the Desk of the Senior Warden

Our discernment process is finally over! On October 3rd we welcomed our new rector, Fr. Marshall Shelly and his wife Laura to St. Peter's. In addition to the expected excitement that comes with starting a new ministry together, it was also our traditional blessing of the animals and children's liturgy. What better way to introduce ourselves as a parish family than to bring the entire family to church, pets included? Pictures from that day are displayed in the parish hall and can be found on our website at <http://www.stpetersspotswood.org>. The following week, the property committee hosted the fall cleanup. We had a warm sunny day for our many volunteers to spruce up the church grounds. Thanks to everyone who participated.

We have much to celebrate at St. Peter's. Our new rector is with us and together we will continue to follow the path that God has put before us.



Laura Bonamici



THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

We will be once again assembling food baskets for those in our community who are in need. The baskets will be assembled and distributed on Sunday November 22nd. All food donations need to be in that morning. If you would like to help assemble the baskets and/or deliver or if you know of someone in need, please contact Sue Hoyt or Megan Bonamici. Your help is welcomed!

We are in the process of coordinating the list of those in need of our help with CUP Food Pantry and other churches in the area.

Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS & GIFT TREE



Share the joy of the holiday season with someone in need by donating food and/or Christmas gifts. The Christmas "Giving Tree" will be in the back of the church on Sunday, Nov. 28th, decorated in gift tags with the first name, size and age of the person your gift will be intended for. Take a tag(s) and return the wrapped gift by Dec. 19th for distribution that day. Again, volunteers to help sort and deliver would be welcome.

Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR GIFT IS BROUGHT IN ON TIME OR THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOUR GIFT IS INTENDED WILL NOT HAVE A GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS.

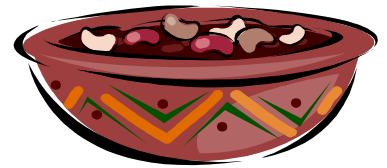


HARVEST FESTIVAL 2010

SATURDAY 11/13/10 @ 6:30 PM

ADMISSION - (HAT & SCARF) - COMMUNITY DRIVE
BRING YOUR FAVORITE FALL TREATS TO SHARE!!!!

CHILI COOK-OFF



SIGN UP SHEET IN THE BACK OF CHURCH

CRAFTS

HARVEST CENTER PIECES

RICE KRISPIE TREAT DECORATING -
(BRING YOUR FAVORITE DECORATIONS ICING, CANDY, MM'S)



Christmas Flowers

Requests for flowers in Thanksgiving for or in Memory of your loved ones should be submitted no later than December 12th to be included in the Christmas bulletins. Special giving envelopes for flowers will be available in the Bell Tower of the church. Place in the collection plate or mail to the office.

Holiday Services

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m. Children's Service with special readings & prayers designed for children to make their holiday worship especially meaningful to them.
8 p.m. & 11 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

NEW YEARS DAY

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, January 9th at the 10 a.m. service. Watch for future announcements of rehearsal dates and times.

ALTAR GUILD



The Altar Guild will meet Friday, December 24th at 9:30 a.m. to clean and decorate the church for Christmas.

Thrift Shop Revitalization (TSR) Committee:

TSR held its first meeting on 10/4/10 which produced a great turn out, headed by Chairperson, Liz Fagan. History of the Thrift Shop was provided by volunteers that have been with the shop from nearly the beginning, which we found out was Father Powers vision. One of the most surprising things that came to light is that nearly half of the dedicated volunteers are not parishioners of St. Peter's! They spoke about how they feel so strongly about the outreach aspect that the store brings to the community that they wanted to be part of. Some great ideas were kicked about and we are all very excited to consider the future possibilities for the shop.

Next TSR meeting will be held on Monday 11/1/2010. ALL ARE WELCOME! Please contact Liz Fagan at queenliz1211@msn.com , 732-723-0666 or just show up in the parish hall at 7 pm.

First improvement, **expand the hours:** As a trial, the Thrift Shop will open the first Sunday of each month after each service for an hour. Starting 11/7/2010 (turn back clocks day), Thrift Store Sunday hours: 8:45-10:00 and 11:15ish-noon. **Volunteers are needed to work these 2 shifts.** Please contact Liz. if you can work any of these hours on 11/7/10, 12/5/10 , 2/6/11, 3/6/11, 4/3/11 and/or 5/1/11.



Dear St. Peter's Parishioners:

Mary and I would like to thank all the members of St. Peter's Church who contributed to the very generous farewell gifts that were given to us. We appreciate all of your kindness and concern and will certainly keep everyone at St. Peter's in our thoughts and prayers.

We wish all at St. Peter's the very best for the future and will ask that God may bless you in all of your ministries.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Doug and Mary Reans

Children Here on Wednesday Nights

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" Matthew 19:4



Jesus taught that children are to be treated with love and respect even when it isn't convenient for us adults. Yet, sadly more children in this country go hungry than adults. This is tragic when we consider that the nutrition needs of

children are more critical than those of adults. Their growing bodies cannot skip a meal waiting for the next paycheck. Jesus also taught us that nourishment is not just bread alone. The Fellowship Suppers on Wednesday nights tries to provide both physical and spiritual nourishment to our young guests. Not only do we welcome them, we try to make them feel treasured. Over the past year we provided milk, and clothing, and even had Santa bring gifts during Christmas. We have games before dinner begins, an opportunity for them to show gratitude by supplying Thank You and Get Well cards and envelopes, craft supplies so that they could make flowers for the tables. We have a "caught you in an act of kindness" program where gift certificates for a treat are issued. One of the most valuable things we do is to listen when they speak. We are trying to "serve Christ in all persons" and "respect the dignity of every human being" - even the little ones.

These are "our" kids because they are our united hope for the future. They say that society is judged on how it treats the least among itself. Let it not be said that we misjudged. We hope that someday they will follow in the footsteps of the many wonderful volunteers that come on Wednesday night. Thank you Lord Jesus for "our kids".

Submitted by Denise Acquista

ST. PETER'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR

November 27th

9 a.m. - 2 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 as well as donations of hot dogs, water, soda, cups, spoons, bowls, napkins, bagels & muffins.



COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED!

We are also in need of items for our home-baked cookie sale. If you would like to donate, please bring your items to the parish hall by 9 a.m. Nov. 27th.

COMING UP!

"Tricky Tray"

The Fundraising Committee is in the beginning stages of planning a Tricky Tray for March 26, 2011. The Committee is asking parishioners to kindly donate baskets and boxes to use for this event. Please contact Mary Ann Grennen at annie18mar@gmail.com or cell phone 732-766-4137. Volunteers also are needed to help run this event. Please keep an eye out for more information as it becomes available.



RAFFLE

2 Tickets to Sight & Sound Theatre for the "Miracle of Christmas" show on December 4, 2010, dinner for 2 and luxury bus transportation. \$230 Value
Drawing to be held on Nov. 27th.
Ticket Price: \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00

Winners need not be present but must be 21 years or older to win. No substitution of the offered prize may be made and no cash will be given in lieu of the prize.

- **SHOP RITE CARDS** are available before and after each Service. Also, thanks to everyone who is buying these cards, we actually sold out on June 6. Keep up the good work, and also please keep bringing in your used ink cartridges.



- **PENNIES FOR THE PARISH**

In order to help St. Peter's out during these difficult economic times, the fundraising committee is starting a "PENNIES FOR THE PARISH" campaign. A jar will be placed in the bell tower for this purpose. Just throw your pennies (or larger coins if you would like) and see what a dent we can make in our deficit.



Gift Card Program

Soon you'll be able to purchase your gift cards: grocery, gas, department store, etc. online with St. Peter's receiving a percentage of the purchase. Watch for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins and Messengers.

For more information about any of these events contact Eric Pertschuk (epertschuk@gmail.com), Mary Ann Grennen (magrennen@verizon.net), Diane Chiarella, Martine Esso-Baker, Janine Giske, or Rosette Andrews.

Birthdays

November

November 1st Emily Biroc
 Richard Bronzellino
 November 2nd LuAnn Bettin
 November 3rd Sandy Caruso
 Thomas Dougherty
 Sean Ignotis
 Ryan Maniscalki
 Andrew Smith
 November 4th Caress Fenton
 Maxwell Guen
 Salvatore Porcelli
 November 5th Gabrielle Ignotis
 November 7th Victoria Guen
 Nancy Pertschuk
 November 8th Peter Zinchuk
 November 9th Michelle Laryea
 Lorraine Shelters
 November 10th Krista Grobelny
 Theodore Klein
 November 14th William Andrews
 November 15th Paul Fatum
 Gregory Tonkin
 November 16th Paul Gale
 Michael Miller
 November 17th Georgina Benhardt
 Catherine Patufka
 November 18th Peggy Ellis
 Jayne Miller
 Richard Patufka
 November 20th Craig Kafafian
 Meghan Knowles
 Derek Santora
 November 24th Sharon Gale
 Rebecca Marfitt
 November 26th Kerri Dvorak
 Daniel Palisay
 November 27th Kaleigh Soles
 Nicole Wheeler
 November 28th Michael Gyumolcs
 November 30th Richard Dvorak
 Carolyn Gugliotta



December

December 2nd Cheryl Hack
 December 3rd Kenneth Irons
 Barbara Tonkin
 December 4th Carissa Smith
 December 5th David Donaldson
 Barbara Nagy
 Bob Stocker
 December 6th Stacey Evans
 Tammy Jones
 December 8th William Begley
 December 9th Jeffrey Hack
 December 10th Victoria Chmielowicz
 Stephanie Fatum
 Alexis Gramata
 December 11th Jesse James Ellis
 Elizabeth Fagan
 Kerri Meyers
 December 12th Kristina Porcelli
 December 13th Scott Bransky
 Bruce Horne
 RJ Paprota
 December 14th Lorraine Kaplan
 December 15th Carol Goldfinger
 Dominic Porcelli
 December 16th Laura Caruso
 Betty Donnamaria
 Christopher Irons
 December 17th Georgann Benhardt
 Darryl Jolly
 Natasha Rosario
 Taylor Soles
 December 18th Kaitlyn Perez
 December 19th Kelley Evans
 December 21st Shailyn Santora
 Gene Vogel
 December 23rd Patricia Smith
 December 26th Shirley Clementi
 Evan Jones
 Scott Tannura
 December 27th Christina McCarthy
 December 30th Dianne Dalfonzo
 Julia Hood
 December 31st George Poko
 Frances Schwarzenberg



November

November 3rd David & Jennifer Persson
 Brian & Jennifer Shonk
 Richard & Sarah Wisniewski
 November 5th Ken & Linda Adams
 Eugene & Margie Weiland
 November 23rd Lester & Sandra Reti
 November 25th Raymond & Erin Johnson
 November 27th Ralph & Kathie Evans

December

December 3rd Craig & Jodi Hoover
 December 5th John & Amy Loughran
 December 16th Robert & Peggy Ellis
 December 21st Bob & Georgann Benhardt

Anniversaries

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A horizontal copper pipe runs across the middle of the card, curving downwards on the right side.



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FLORIST

The card features a decorative border of green vines and leaves. The word 'Love' is written in a large, ornate, black script font.



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An illustration of a paint bucket with a brush and a paint roller on a tray is on the left side of the card.

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