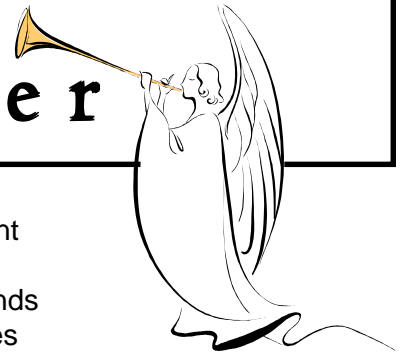


January - February 2011

The Messenger



“Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory, that he may be known, worshiped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen”

This is the Collect of the Day for the second Sunday after the Epiphany, and as I contemplate the possibilities and challenges of the year ahead for us here at St. Peter’s that prayer keeps popping up in front of my mind’s eye. I have been given the great blessing of serving as your Rector, and at the Celebration of New Ministry last month was able to stand next to the Bishop and with him see our community glowing with that same godly radiance. In so many ways, it felt like Christmas came early. It helped, of course, to see not only a Eucharistic, but a gustatory feast prepared for us as well. No one went away hungry from our Celebration. Spirit and body were well nourished! Thank you to all who worked so hard throughout the transition, and to all who worked to make the Celebration and reception a wonderful experience for all. Even as we celebrated the end of our common search, a new chapter in our common life in Christ opened on some wonderful and hope-filled notes. The radiance of Christ’s glory does indeed shine here in Spotswood!

Still, as with all things Holy, with great blessings come answering challenges. Over the course of the Christmas Feast, we lost a dear friend and brother in Christ with the unexpected death of George Poko. I give thanks to God for his life and this parish. Even as we grieved his departure to eternal life in Christ, our desire to express a small portion of the love George bore for his church called us to action and mutual care in the name of Jesus and with the promise of resurrection he tenders to us, in his birth, death and rising to new life. Gifts of food, love, prayers and support arrived at the Poko’s doorstep, quite literally at first light the next day. The presence of hundreds at a postponed wake and memorial service for George reminded us that even when a blizzard disrupts our careful plans the Body of Christ will continue to gather in force to love and serve each other. Tears and laughter mingled as we remembered George, and so many other saints who were taken from us on God’s time when we wanted so many more years with them here in this life.

The year ahead offers some wonderful challenges to us, to continue to grow in health and spirit as a Church, to carry forward the legacy of faithful servants and to seek new ways to proclaim the light of the glory of God. The great joy of our fore bearers was to make sure that anyone who came onto these grounds was not only welcomed, but also fed, nurtured and invited to join in the good work being done on behalf of Christ for the wider community. As the months unfold, we will continue to celebrate, both the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the good news we share together as we close a year of blessings and open ourselves up to the light of Christ in the years to come. St Peter’s is already practicing what we preach. Let’s continue to reach out, serve, proclaim and welcome a world yearning for the sort of grace we experience here on a daily basis!

Peace in this Epiphanytide,

Fr. Marshall

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church

505 Main Street ❖ Spotswood, New Jersey 08884

Tel. 732-251-2449 ❖ Fax: 732-251-4019 ❖ Pastoral Emergencies: 732-513-0783 ❖ Thrift Shop: 732-251-4113

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

Annual Meeting



On Sunday, January 30th, 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 and the 2 year position of Jr. Warden. Please give nomination forms (located in the back of the church) to Fr. Marshall 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 2011 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.**

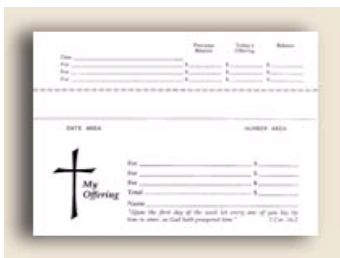
PHONE DIRECTORY

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 2011 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.



Dear Lord...
 So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have not charged on my credit card. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes and I will need alot more help after that. Amen.

Submitted by Nancie McTaggart

Community Of Hope Ministries

As you can imagine, the holiday season is always a very busy time for all of our outreach programs. The Churches United for People (C.U.P.) food pantry is serving approximately 150 households, which means that we provide food to almost 435 people each month.

Our free Wednesday night dinners host approximately 75 people each week. These dinners are open to anyone who needs fellowship and a nutritious meal. The evening before Thanksgiving, 84 people received a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The Wednesday before Christmas 91 people enjoyed a full Christmas dinner along with a visit from Santa, who delivered personalized, age appropriate gifts for the 28 children of varying ages who attended.

In addition to these regularly scheduled events, we also provided gifts of clothing, toys and food to 8 local families who were in dire need of a Christmas. One of these families recently sent us a thank you note which stated: "Words cannot tell you how much your gifts have meant to us. God has sent us so many wonderful gifts in the form of good people in the past month. You are truly angels sent from heaven."

Finally, these programs would not be possible without constant donations from area businesses, monetary contributions from organizations, churches, and individuals and the many volunteer groups and supporters who supply money, gift cards, food and toys as well as their time to help with shopping, wrapping, delivering, serving, cooking, cleaning and working in the pantry, thrift shop and kitchen. Please know that your contributions really filled our community with hope and kindness at this special time of year.



VAN DUZER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The deadline for applications to the Van Duzer Scholarship Fund is March 1, 2011. 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/FormsDocs/FundsGrants/VanDuzer/index.html> or contact the parish office.



OFFICE CLOSED

On President's Day, Monday, February 21st the office will be closed.

From the Desk of the Senior Warden

Sunday, December 19th was a great day at St. Peter's. Bishop George Cuncell was with us as he presided over the Celebration of New Ministry. Canon Lee Powers and Fr. Charles Lochner were also in attendance. The church was filled with friends and family who came to commemorate the occasion and share in our joy as Fr. Marshall Shelly was formally installed as our Rector. Many thanks go out to all those who helped make this day possible.



Now that things have quieted down, I have had time to reflect on the past two years and I realize that it has been my privilege to witness firsthand the power of prayer. During our interim time, we prayed for God to guide us to a new rector. God knew what we wanted and He knew what we needed. I have learned in conversations with Fr. Marshall that at the same time, he was praying to find a church. God knew what he wanted and what he needed. And in His infinite wisdom He brought us together. Our prayers have been answered. I can't wait to see where He will lead us next.

TRICKY TRAY FUND RAISER

St. Peter's will be hosting a Tricky Tray Fund Raiser on May 7, 2011. In order to make this event a success, we are asking the parishioners to help by making donations for the raffle baskets. Any small electronics (radio, ipod, cd player, electric toothbrush, electric razor etc), housewares (pots, knife sets, bakeware, etc), small kitchen appliances (toaster oven, coffee maker, microwave, etc.), gift cards (any denomination, any store), games (board games, Wii games, PlayStation, PSP, DS, etc), giftware (candle sticks, vases, candy dishes, etc.) and/or items for the garage/outside (tools, tool box, weed wacker, gardening tools, etc.) would make a perfect prize. Cash donations will be used to purchase additional items for raffle baskets. These are just suggestions – **ANY donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated.** The sales right now are fantastic, so some of you may want to make a shopping trip, but some of you may want to just see what is "laying around" (donations must be new and in original boxes, if possible). Were you taking out your ornaments this year and realized you had a brand new set of lights and two boxes of gold balls that were never opened? We'll take 'em! When you did your spring cleaning, did you notice that the extra coffee maker you bought because it was such a great deal never got opened because yours still works great? We'll take it! Did Aunt Sally give your husband the same electric nose hair trimmer this Christmas that she gave him for the past 5 years? Yeah, we'll take that too. Re-gift? No problem. If you don't feel like going back to the store to return that unwanted/unneeded Christmas gift, just bring it with you to church on Sunday and drop it off – we **LOVE** re-gifts (*and, we promise not to tell!!!*).

Donations can be dropped off at the rectory. If no one is there when you drop your donation, please leave it on the porch, marked Tricky Tray.

We are still also looking for baskets, tins and hatboxes to use for the "bases" of our baskets. Those can be dropped off as well.

If you have any questions or need someone to pick up your donations from you, please contact Mary Ann Grennen 732-766-4137 annie18mar@gmail.com, Janine Giske 732-422-0971 jdj1244@verizon.net or Eric Pertschuk 732-690-8058 epertschuk@gmail.com.

We are looking into a small family trip for the Grand Prize. We will make an announcement as things progress. We will also let you know when tickets go on sale and reservations can be made (so, hold the date), as well as sending out a volunteer request for people to help us set-up, break-down and run the event. **This is our first time running a Tricky Tray – with everyone's help, it will be a great success.**

Many blessings for health, happiness and prosperity in 2011.

Christmas Momento

On December 21, I found myself delivering 8 large bags of new toys and clothes to the Episcopal Church in Perth Amboy. These bags were part of a rescue effort for the 32 families that were displaced by a large fire on the previous day. While in Perth Amboy I met Deacon Kathy DeJohn. She had been up all night trying to make arrangements for the families and she was exhausted. As I was driving home I thought about all of the events that conspired to bring me to Perth Amboy that afternoon.

* Earlier that day I was in the parish office and received a call from an organization that said they had collected several bags of new toys and wanted them to go for a good cause. They called St. Peter's Spotswood because of our heritage in outreach.

* Two hours earlier a group of 5 parishioners at St. Peter's had held up in prayer the victims of the Perth Amboy fire.

* Two days earlier, the Interim Rector of Perth Amboy's Episcopal Church (also called St. Peter's) had attended Fr. Marshall's installation.

* Two weeks earlier, I had attended a meeting in Perth Amboy - my first exposure to that historic church.

* Two months earlier I had attended a meeting at Diocesan House in Trenton and met The Reverend Deborah Piggins, Interim Rector, St. Peter's Perth Amboy.

* Two hundred years ago, St. Peter's, Perth Amboy and St. Peter's, Spotswood were two of the founding congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of NJ.

* Two thousand years ago, the Word became flesh..... Everything changed.

I am proud to be an Episcopalian. We are bound together by history, creed, and mission. As an Episcopalian I am humbled to serve God and the people of God's Kingdom - this time in Perth Amboy. As Bishop Council reminded us at Fr. Marshall's installation, "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good."

In faith, Ted Foley

Thrift Shop Revitalization

Rag Bag Sunday

Sunday 1/23/10 from 11:45 am-2 pm. Bring your ripped, stained, outdated, **unsellable FABRIC** items (clothes, curtains, blankets, sheets, sleeping bags, etc.)



+ OLD SHOES (in a separate bag) to **Rag Bag Sunday**. Attendants in the parking lot (behind garage) will help you unload. Someone will be available at 9am for early service parishioners.

New Hours



Hours have been expanded to include all day Thursday 10 am to 8pm in addition to the 1st Sunday from 11:45 – 1pm.

Prep Room Gut-Volunteers

Needed

Saturday 1/22/11 & Sunday 1/23/11 will be a mass reorganization of donations received at our Thrift Shop. **Youth Groups/4H/Scouts seeking to participate in community service are welcome.** Hours: Saturday 1/22/11: 10 am – 1 pm & Sunday 1/23/11: 11:45-am – 2 pm.



Volunteer Services

Volunteers needed to prepare clothes and assist customers on the "selling floor" or help with incoming donations on an ongoing basis. St Peter's has many outreach programs to help communities in need. Your donation of time will help! *Store Hours: Tues: 10-2, Thurs: 10-8, Sat: 10-1, 1st Sunday 11:45-1.* **Volunteers that can commit to a set schedule are most helpful**, but ALL ARE WELCOME. Retirees, Moms with kids in school, Youth Group/Scouts/4H in need of a community service project. Every hour given is appreciated and welcome! Giving back to the community through volunteer service can be very rewarding.

Contact 732-251-2449 or stpetersspotswood@comcast.net for more information or stop in during business hours for volunteer form.

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08831

January Birthdays

January 1 st	Arthur Campbell III Daniel D'Allessandro
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	Danielle Obal
January 10 th	Warren Himich Sarah Kulpa
January 11 th	Bill Makwinski
January 13 th	Kayla Baker BethAnn Himich Margie Weiland
January 15 th	William Heffron Addison Riley Aidan Smith David Weiss
January 18 th	Amanda Shelters
January 20 th	Taylor Ferguson Kenneth Lockman 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 James Heffron
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	Augustus Dalfonzo
February 7 th	Marianne Jones
February 8 th	Jessica Grennen
February 9 th	Laura Borawski Robert Ellis Gina Gugliotta
February 10 th	Liam Barlow 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
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 23 rd	Alexa Tabora Pat Scire
February 24 th	Patricia Campbell Ryan Kalber Bertus Shelters IV
February 25 th	Marissa Brown Daniel Loughran Deborah Riley
February 28 th	Voula Begley Diana McCarthy
February 29 th	Kai DeGroat

February Anniversaries

February 20 th	Craig & Marissa Brown
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