

May-June 2011

# The Messenger



The Resurrection Season...

Easter: a wonderful holiday. It comes to us just at those moments when we *really* need to see signs of new life as winter wanes and spring reveals itself to us in fits and starts. Still I brace against the popular culture's attempts to make it one of those one-day-holidays. Easter morning is a grand occasion. We wear our best; sing with passion and energy the hymns most of us know by heart. We make it a point to gather with family and friends and feast in honor of our risen Lord and Savior. We indulge in joy and celebration...but we can't forget to continue to live into the reality that Easter is not one, but 50 days. Seven weeks of meeting our Lord and Savior as he reveals to us a new creation in God's plan for the salvation of the world.

Jesus comes to us, raised up after his crucifixion, to call us to new life in God's Kingdom. In Him, the new life is a "here and now" renewal of God's promises to Israel *and* to the world. The former things have been overturned: Sin and death are overcome. God's justice is breaking in over us. For 50 days, Jesus, resurrected, is with us. He lingers in the Upper Room, passing through doors that are locked against the crowds that are still seeking more of the blood of the nascent Church. He lovingly confronts Thomas, the Twin, who demands to see the wounds in order to believe what he was told about the Teacher's rising. He walks with us, his disciples, on the Road to Emmaus. He adjures us to continue to love each other with abandon and to offer forgiveness in abundance. He commends us to God, his and our *Abba (beloved parent)*, and promises us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit when he returns to his Father in Heaven.

The heart and soul of the Easter proclamation is not just to make time for a holiday's gathering and celebration. It is to be willing to take an event and embrace it as an experience that continues to transform and renew us during this season, and over a lifetime.

I see that grace unfolding here at St. Peter's. Even as I write this column in the midst of Holy Week, there is a sense of renewal, of springtime vigor in our parish. New souls are coming to Christ, and many are committing to new growth in faith and wisdom. We are experiencing an increase in interest in Baptisms, Confirmations, and Receptions into the body of the Church. Young and old, people are committing to ministry and formation, and the Church is showing signs of that energy.

From the celebrations in the coming months of Early Communion to our completion of the Sunday School program year, our youth and children continue to model for us what it means to look forward to worship and service at St. Peter's. The Stewardship Ministry has scheduled events for us to grow in fellowship and camaraderie, reminding us that to care for and enjoy each other is an important element of good stewardship of the parish. The Buildings and Grounds committee completed one of the most ambitious Spring Cleanups in recent memory.

## ***St. Peter's Episcopal Church***

505 Main Street ❖ Spotswood, New Jersey 08884

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We're planning our traditional Mothers' Day brunch. We are looking forward to Fundraising's efforts to build up the parish in the Tricky Tray and Atlantic City bus trips. Finally, we look to draw our Eastertide to a close with a Pentecost Picnic. In all of that, we continue to serve Christ in all persons, giving to the CUP Food Pantry, supporting the COHM Wednesday night Suppers, growing our Thrift Store in service to the community, and making every effort to continue to reach out to people in need.

At heart's core, I hope to hold up to our scrutiny that Easter renewal is a seasonal gift, and not just a day off from work or school. Even as we proclaim Christ is alive, He reminds us that life in Christ is an ever present call to life, to action and to celebration in service to our Savior.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Fr. Marshall

**From the Desk of  
Laura Bonamici,  
Sr. Warden**



I've spent much time lately reflecting on what it means to be a member of the body of Christ. It warms my heart to consider how often we at St. Peter's Church come together in fellowship and service to each other and to the wider community. In recent weeks, dozens of volunteers spent a Sunday afternoon spring cleaning the church yard in preparation for Holy Week, the Easter egg hunt and of course Easter. We will have a fun evening together at family game night in the parish hall. In coming weeks the fund raising committee is hosting a tricky tray event with the proceeds benefitting our many ministries. And of course every Wednesday night we host the Community Fellowship Suppers, which for many is their first introduction to St. Peter's. One of our Vestry goals is "To answer Peter's call to 'Feed my Sheep. Tend my Sheep. Feed my Sheep.'"; we are on our way to answering that call.

As the Vestry continues to look forward to see where God is leading us next, I trust that we will continue to build on our history of outreach, to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us, and to be faithful witnesses of Christ's love.

There will be a Mother's Day breakfast between the 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. services on Sunday, May 8th 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](mailto:robertjohnferguson@gmail.com) to lend your support.

## Sunday School

### 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 22nd at the 10 a.m. service. They will be meeting on Sat., May 14th at 10 a.m. to create their Family Banners and rehearse in the church. Our 2011 Communion Class: Liam Barlow, Russell Fagan, Joseph Baker, Ethan Hood, Emma Hoover, Caroine Jones, Madison Oughton, Lindsey Pepe, Kristina Porcelli, Guerin San Agustin, Robert Wehrle and Jacob Weiss.

### Sunday School Registration On-Line

We ask that you register your children for the upcoming 2011/12 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.

### **Teachers and Children's Chapel Volunteers Needed for 2011/2012!**

If you feel that this is a way to give of your time and talent, please contact Nancy Pertschuk, nancy1959@aol.com or call her at 732-605-0644.

### **Thank You!**

At the end of this school year, Jodi Hoover will be taking a break from teaching Sunday school. We would like to thank Jodi for all of her time, talent and dedication over the years to preparing the 2nd Grade children for Communion Sunday. Be sure to thank her and all the teachers in our program.

## **Fund-Raising**

### **THE SWEETEST TRIP ON**

**EARTH RAFFLE** Although the Tricky Tray itself is sold out, (thank you everyone), tickets are still available for the Grand Prize. You do not need to be

present at the tricky tray on May 7 in order to win. This Hershey Getaway Grand Prize includes a 4 day 3 night stay at the Hershey Lodge. Also includes 4 (2) day passes to Hershey Park and entry into Hershey Gardens, Hershey Museum, Hershey Story and Zoo America. Also included is a \$300.00 gift card to be used anywhere in Park or at the hotel. The Retail value is \$1600.00. The winner will receive a call the night of the Tricky Tray if they are not at the event.



**ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP** - Saturday, May 21st. Please see Eric Pertschuk to reserve your seat(s).

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SHIRTS OR SPOTSWOOD SHIRTS** are still available.



### **SOMERSET PATRIOTS VOUCHERS –**

Vouchers can be used for any Somerset Patriots home game at TD Bank Ballpark and will be available all summer. Individual vouchers for \$8.00 each, saves \$1.00 off the box office price. A book of (5) vouchers for \$38.00 saves \$7.00 off the box office price. Vouchers should be exchanged at the ballpark's box office before entering the stadium.

### **SOMERSET PATRIOTS BASEBALL PICNIC**

- is scheduled for August 20 with unlimited food, great seats, and fireworks. This is a great family outing and is 75% cheaper than going to a Mets or Yankees game.

**PENNIES FOR THE PARISH** - This campaign is ongoing. The jar is placed in the bell tower for this purpose. Just throw your pennies in (we also accept larger coins?). In 2010 this jar collected over \$300.00. For 2011 lets try for \$400.00.

### **Gift Card Program – SCRIPZONE.COM**

<http://scripzone.com/>

Now you are able to purchase your gift cards such as grocery, gas, department store, etc. online with St. Peter's receiving a percentage of the purchase price. Go to St. Peter's home page

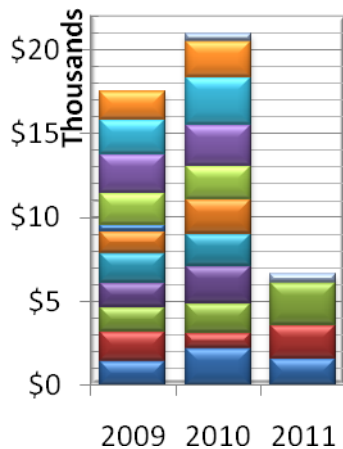
<http://www.stpetersspotswood.org/> and on the left hand side click on the instruction link, or go directly to Scripzone.com.

**SHOP RITE CARDS** are available before and after each Service in \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00 increments. St. Peter's makes a 5% profit on these cards, and you don't have to spend any extra money. Just take these cards to the checkout to pay for your normal groceries.

Also, please keep bringing in your **USED INK CARTRIDGES**

## Thrift Shop Revitalization

### 1st Quarter Results:



Each color represents 1 month

Despite Snow Closings resulting in a dismal Jan, Feb and Mar made a huge come back! This wonderful ONGOING project has enormous promise for the financial health, fellowship and outreach of our cherished parish and has far reaching possibilities. We've barely scratched the surface but are extremely optimistic with this phenomenal 1st quarter.

### New Hours Yet Again:

Tuesdays 10-2  
 Thursdays: 10-8  
 Saturday 10-2 (to 4 soon)  
 Every Sunday: 11:30-12:30

**Dress Event:** We have been very blessed with a plethora of prom, wedding, teen and mature dresses of superior quality. The 2nd floor holiday shop has been transformed into a dress boutique including dressing room and mirrors. We've been additionally blessed with a seamstress that has volunteered her time and talents! Very nice/fancy Dress/Pants are \$10 and alterations are FREE! Com stop in and see us.



### How Can I Help?

**Donations** are always needed such as clean, small appliances, bikes, jewelry and books, dishes, clean cookware, clean unstained linens (queen size especially). Clothing and shoes



are always welcome. If possible it would be great if you could **separate saleable** items (clean, unstained, unripped) from **unsaleable** items (mark unsaleable as RAGS). **THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO DONATIONS**, which are gratefully accepted during all business hours.

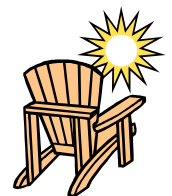


**Volunteers** are always needed to work sorting donations and work on the sales floor. We especially need people to volunteer on Saturdays from 1-4 and during the summer when some of our year round staff becomes unavailable. Volunteering doesn't need to be weekly. Once/twice per month volunteers are very welcome. Contact: [stpeterspotswood@comcast.net](mailto:stpeterspotswood@comcast.net) or see/call Sue Wilgus (732-322-6336). Give us 2-3 hours and you will experience how volunteering can make a difference in our shop and your life!

**Watch for us in the News!** Keep checking the Sentinel, EBTv and Spotswood Channel 3, as we've received tons of FREE press recently.

### 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.





Easter Message 2011  
"We give thanks for the Resurrection..."

by Katharine Jefferts Schori

4/21/2011

The Resurrection must be understood in significantly different images and metaphors in the southern hemisphere, when Easter always arrives in the transition from summer to winter. Even as a hard, hard winter lingers on in northern climes, with unaccustomed April snow in many places, we yearn for the new life we know is waiting around the corner. As Christians, we're meant to have the same hunger for the new creation emerging all around us.

We can see the broken places of our world either as complete and utter disaster, or as seedbeds – graves, even – in which God is doing a new thing. The situation in Haiti is dire, yet day by day and person by person hope lightens and leavens. Plans are emerging for civic reconstruction in Port-au-Prince that would bless the nation with pride in its heritage and more effective government. The Episcopal Church is a partner in those possibilities, as the vision for a rebuilt cathedral takes form. The graves are becoming gardens, at Cathédrale Sainte-Trinité and Collège St. Pierre. New and more life-giving relationships are emerging between development ministries and the lives of the people. Resurrection is happening in many places, even if one must search for it, like looking for the first buds on the trees as ice and snow give way to the warmth of spring. The aftermath of earthquake and tsunami in Japan continues to look a great deal like winter, and the trials and failures at Daiichi Fukushima currently resonate more with apocalypse than Easter. Yet across north-eastern Japan the work of the faithful is feeding senior citizens, ministering to displaced persons in shelters, and prompting

challenging questions about social priorities, energy use, and consumerist lifestyles. The gift of Easter insists that human beings are capable of divine relationship, for as Athanasius put it, "God became human that human beings might become divine." The life, death, passion, and resurrection of Jesus are the cosmic insistence that nothing can separate us from the divine passion for humanity. Easter people are imprinted with the assurance that God is always working some new grace of creation out of death and destruction.

For most of us the dying is not cosmic. It may start with a small willingness to set aside self, or a new opportunity for grafting onto a greater whole. Or it may involve lowering the barriers between self and other to become more readily aware of our fundamental oneness, our common heritage as offspring of the Holy One. If we are to be followers of Jesus, we share the work he did on our behalf. We give thanks for the Resurrection, and we become part of Jesus' ongoing work, as we become aware of its power in our own lives.

May your Eastertide be filled with the grace of new life. Go, discover, and BE resurrection for the world around you.

# Count Your Blessings!

Did you ever think of your commute as a blessing?

It is, you know.

When the clergy of the indigenous congregations of the Diocese of Ecuador Central make a pastoral visit, they are traveling on the soles of their feet to one of scores of congregations spread over hundreds of square miles.

You can help.

We challenge every household of our diocese to count your blessings (your bicycles, cars, motor-cycles, boats, etc.) one by one. Then, as an act of thanksgiving and with a desire to bless the people of our companion diocese, contribute \$5 for each form of transportation you own.

With only a few households in each congregation of the Diocese of New Jersey making this modest sacrifice, we will be able to provide two trucks capable of dealing with the dirt roads and mountainous terrain that typify the countryside of our sisters and brothers in the midst of the Andes.

With this gift, the clergy of Ecuador Central will be enabled to more effectively reach out, sharing the love of Jesus among all.

Let's do it together!

Make your check payable to "Diocese of New Jersey", clearly marked "Ecuador — Count Your Blessings" and send it today to:

Diocese of New Jersey  
Companion Diocese Committee  
808 West State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08618

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## May Birthdays

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



## June Birthdays

June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nicholas Jackson Amber Marfitt Scott Miller
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jayvis Rayside
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Grennen Georgia Hockenjos Christopher Riley Daniel Shelters
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Gugliotta Jason Laryea
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Arlene Miller
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Ryan Sam Saffioti
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Colleen Sanders
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Denise Acquista Jim Martindell
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Faynberg
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	June Klem
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	John Loughran Eleanor Stocker
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	LuAnn Goglia Nathan Jolly Richard Latyn
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Brittany Pulaski Peggy Quaglietta
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Leo Babeu Laura Bonamici
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sean Paskell
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Brian Dougherty
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Elise Jones
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Robert Andrews Ted Foley Jaidyn Santora
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Judi Tarkany
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Alberta Boshko Sarah Ludewig
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Rosita Hamilton Debbie Newman
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Donaldson Bob Donaldson Tracy Evans
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Arlene Taylor Richard Twomey
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ethan Hood

## May Anniversaries

May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Dan & Carolyn Gugliotta
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mike & Shirley Clementi
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	John & Veronica Hagen
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	David & Maelisa Donaldson Richard & Erynn Patterson
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Michael & Luann Bettin



## June Anniversaries

June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mark & Wendy Hoyt
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Steve & Bobbin Paskell
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Richard & Lynda Bronzellino Paul & Nancy Sarnak Walter & Nancy Willis
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Donald & Barbara Tonkin
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Walter & Mary Ann Popleik
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Becky & Jim Martindell Nelson & Phyllis Powell