

The Peppercorn

St. Peter's Newsletter

October 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently I read a great story that I want to share with you – see if in reading it you can determine what ‘religious’ theme it relates to:

*A Pentecostal Pastor...said that when he was a child he lived in a small town and, on one occasion, his mother sent him to a florist to pick up some flowers for the dinner table. He had to carry the flowers through town from the store to his home and he was embarrassed to do this. He was afraid that his friends would see him and call him a sissy for carrying flowers. But a few years later, he was in love with a young woman and he returned to that same florist's shop, purchased a bouquet for the object of his affection, and carried it through the same streets without shame. "I was no longer concerned with what anyone would think of me," the pastor concluded. "I was just thinking of her, and of how happy she would be to get flowers, and of how happy I was to be the one to bring them to her." **

The religious theme is...? Love, yes. Giving, yes. But most of all this is a story about the most basic human activity of all: worship.

Think about it this way: what *good* are flowers? The young suitor could have purchased his young lady school supplies, perhaps. Or maybe new socks. Both would have been far more ‘useful’ to his beloved. But neither would have expressed quite as well his affection and his devotion. The flowers were an offering of love.

And that's what worship is – it is an offering of love. Setting aside Sunday morning to sing, to pray, to be with God and God's people is an utterly impractical way of spending time. In fact, it's something of a waste of time. It would be far more practical and useful to spend our precious free time by doing something more sensible like washing the car, mowing the lawn, raking the yard, doing the laundry or cleaning the house. But nothing expresses our love and devotion for God quite like spending time with God.

One would imagine that the young lady, the object of the Pastor's affection, was delighted to receive the flowers, and was touched by a generous gesture of love. I'm quite sure that she appreciated the flowers much more than she would have enjoyed a box of #2 pencils or a bundle of new socks. God is like that young lady. God who loves us, is so delighted when we offer of our resources. God does not need anything from us, any more than that young lady *needed* those flowers. Yet God takes joy in our human expressions of love and devotion that we demonstrate in worship.

Giving to the Church, which we will talk about in a more focused and direct way over these next few months, is not about giving to meet specific budget needs. Meeting those needs is important; supporting the life and mission of St. Peter's Church is part of our obligation as members of Christ's body. But giving *as an act of worship* moves us beyond duty to delight. People who have been touched by the goodness of God want to worship God. We do that by taking something that is entrusted to us (time, money, particular abilities or talents) and giving them to God.

All throughout the Bible, there are instances in which people moved to worship give to God. In a spirit of devotion and adoration, many servants of God both those well-known and those obscure and nameless offered their gift of glad and generous hearts that have were touched by God's love.

We have been blessed by God. Let us respond in worship.

Peace and Blessings,

Frank+

* story from *Giving to God*, by Mark Allan Powell (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006)

Food for the Poor

On Sunday, October 9, we will welcome the Reverend Stephen Whitney-Wise to worship with us. He speaks for those who have no voice – the destitute served by Food For The Poor, an interdenominational ministry providing food, clothing, medical care, housing and economic development programs in the Caribbean, Central and South America. Fr. Whitney-Wise is recently retired, and will be traveling throughout the US introducing people of The First World to the people of The Third World, and leading life changing pilgrimages to these countries. After 34 years of parish ministry, he brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to this new venture. Please join us at any of the three Sunday services, or at Bible Café between 9:00 and 11:00 services to learn more about this important work.

Organ news

Most parishioners have probably noticed the organ pipes located at the center of the Church balcony. Maybe some have noticed that they are never played. This is because they have become unusable and unplayable. Over the course of the next year or so, those unplayable pipes will be replaced with different pipes (used organ pipes, available at a bargain price through our organ tuner and repairman). In addition, all of the mechanical and electrical work will be completed to make them fully functional. The instrument that our organist and choir director Mark Hyczko makes to sound so inspiring will ultimately sound even fuller, richer, and brighter. Truly, it will be a joyful noise to the Lord. Although funds are available to cover the cost of this project, additional donations will be gratefully received.

Women of St. Peter's

The first meeting for 2010-2011 was held on September 15 with new president, Carolyn Wilson starting her first term. Our primary piece of business was the Annual Holiday Bazaar which enables us to fund our budget supporting the various ministries of St. Peter's and special projects. The bazaar is scheduled for November 20 and 21 and we will need the help of all the women of the parish to make it a success. Of course we also count on the men of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew who are always ready to step in on our behalf.

Members were encouraged to support the upcoming event of the Downtown Concert Series and the Founders Day Celebration, both in October.

As always we had a wonderful potluck luncheon and at this our first meeting of the year, a "reunion" and recharging of our fellowship batteries. We have our share of fun while enjoying each other's company as we work through the agenda for our organization. Please consider joining in, next month we meet on October 6 downstairs in the Parish House.

Save the Date: Crop Walk: October 17th

Once again, St. Peter's will be the registration and starting point for the Freehold Area Crop Walk. Please make plans to participate in this wonderful community wide effort to raise funds and awareness in the fight against world hunger.

We will begin our day with lunch for our walkers and volunteers at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Youth and adult volunteers are needed to help with registration and hospitality. Please contact Deacon Catherine at Deacon@stpetersfreehold.org if you are interested in helping out.

This fall, the women's book group

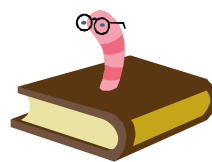
JOURNEYS will be discussing *The Shack* by William Young. The book is readily available at local bookstores. There will be three meetings, all on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. on September 28, October 19 and November 16 in the choir room. Come join us for lively discussion and fellowship!

For further information contact:

Meg Tweten, 732-409-7363, mtteach@optonline.net

Susan Hebert, 732-702-1449, sbwhebert26@gmail.com

Kathy Whall, 732-761-9604, kathywhall@optonline.net



The Bookworm wants to know: What are you reading?

Charlotte Roy Guido recommends *Mistress of the Art of Death*, by Ariana Franklin...Medieval mystery...great read, fun, thought-provoking... and there is a sequel that's just as good!!! **Deacon Catherine** enjoyed *I See You Everywhere*, by Julia Glass, a touching and thoughtful novel that describes the relationship of two adult sisters.

Soldier Boxes for Christmas and Chanukah

You can help bring Christmas Joy to service men and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In cooperation with Hope Lutheran Church, St. Peter's will begin collecting Christmas and Chanukah novelties, snacks, and personal hygiene items for military personnel from October 24th through November 20th.

If you have a loved one who will be in Iraq or Afghanistan at Christmas please let Deacon Catherine know their name and the mailing address to which a box of goodies may be sent to them in time for the holidays. You can email the information to deacon@stpetersfreehold.org.