

The Peppercorn

St. Peter's Newsletter

June 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

This week I had a good laugh at a cartoon in the latest issue of the *New Yorker* magazine. The pictures showed a long-haired, gray-bearded, sandal and robe clad latter day preacher of doom on a Manhattan street corner. In his hands he held a sign that said, "The End Was Near."

For those of you who didn't know, a popular fundamentalist radio preacher had predicted that the world would end on May 21, 2011 at 6:00PM. As you know, it didn't. So we are, in the words of a once-popular series about the end of the world, "Left Behind".

The 'rapture' may not have happened, but, as it turns out, we are indeed characters in the ultimate left behind story. That is one way to read the story of the Ascension, which the Church celebrates this month, and which we confess every Sunday when we recite the creed. Jesus has ascended into heaven and gone to be with his Father. And we remain here on earth.

Unlike the popular religious novel series, we are not 'left behind' because of some imperfect faith on our part and to have one last chance to prove ourselves worthy. Instead, we are honored to be left behind, because when Jesus departed this earth he invited us -- his people, his church, his body -- to participate in his own work. We are to do what Jesus does: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, listening to the distraught and broken-hearted, sharing with others. All of these are ways that we show forth Christ's presence in our lives and in his world.

But there are other ways that we do Christ's work, not only in our 'churchy' work. In the ordinary tasks of our everyday life -- work, play, family life, civic involvement, volunteer opportunities -- all of these routine and mundane things are avenues by which we can do God's work. Any honest work, paid or unpaid, can help care for this world and care for the people that God loves so much.

Please don't think that because your ordinary work and your everyday life seems to have little to do with God or church that what you do does not matter to God. Giving your child a bath, creating a safe and productive workplace, planting a garden, listening to a neighbor's lament, picking up your grandchild from school -- all of these, and many more -- these are ways of helping to care for God's people and God's world. God is at work in us and through us. Jesus has left us behind and entrusted God's important work to us to accomplish in his absence.

In other words, this life is not simply practice for the next life. Nor is it some kind of trial to be endured until a future glory. Nor it is a kind of a test to prove ourselves worthy of heaven. God intends for us to be committed to this world and this world's people in the here and now. By virtue of our baptism we are commissioned and blessed to participate in God's work.

Thank you for taking your part, day by day, for sharing God's blessings, and doing God's work in this world.

Frank+



Reminder: If you wish to schedule any building space for an event, it must go through the church office. Please call the church office at (732) 431-8383 before planning an event. Thank you.

Women of St. Peter's

We had a good turnout for our final meeting for this program year on June 1st. The group was asked to support the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Annual Barbeque with sides and desserts so we will purchase some items and make others. We will have the parish hall carpet cleaned soon. The paperwork necessary for the church to reapply for a raffle license from the State was discussed. We need the license in order to apply to the borough so we can have a 50/50. Fran is trying to gather the necessary paperwork for the application. Esther is working on our gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble again. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed. After lunch a brief discussion of the Bazaar was held. The final item was election of a secretary and vice-president. Cathy Weick is the new secretary and Kathryn Robinson the vice-president. We thank them for volunteering to serve. The next meeting will be in September. Have a good summer.

Save the Dates plus:

The Women of St. Peter's have scheduled this year's Annual Holiday Bazaar for November 19th and 20th, Saturday and Sunday. We will have a table this year devoted to the craft efforts of our members. This table will accept donations of handmade items from you, our parishioners. Whether you sew, knit, crochet, work with wood, make candles - whatever your hobby or avocation. Just think, while you are sitting by the pool this summer you can be turning out a pair of mittens for the bazaar.

News from 'Down Under'

No -- not Australia, but the Nursery, which is located downstairs under the parish hall.

The nursery at St. Peter's is busier than ever this spring! We are blessed to have a growing number of young children in the nursery each Sunday, but we need to expand our network of nursery volunteers. We have a paid child care provider available on Sundays, but for safety reasons we would like to supplement this person with a volunteer assistant during the 9:00 service so that there will always be two people supervising the children during this busy time. Many parents of young children are already serving, but we need more people to help with this important ministry. If you feel called to spend one Sunday morning every month or two with our youngest members, please talk to Mary Alsager or Anne Delgado (delgado.anne@gmail.com), or stop by the nursery (downstairs in the parish hall) on Sunday morning. Thank you!

An Invitation from Laura Wittman and Cornerstone Music Studios of Millstone Township

Members and friends of St. Peter's Church are invited to attend a free concert (actually, free *concerts*) at St. Peter's Church on the first weekend in June.

Over 120 students will be performing in 7 one-hour recital programs, featuring piano, guitar, voice, violin, rock band, and more. Each concert is free and open to the public. Here's a chance to enjoy a live performance and at the same time support area musicians and music students. Recital times are as follows:

Saturday, June 4th

10:30 am

12:00 pm

1:30 pm

3:00 pm

Sunday, June 5th

2:00 pm

3:30 pm

5:30 pm

June special events

We at St. Peter's Church are so blessed to be looking forward to three very special celebrations this month.

Sunday, June 12 *Pentecost*

9:00AM Our regular family service will be a combined service with the Saturday evening Spanish language service. For the last few months Mayra Caceres (with a little help from Father Frank) has been offering communion instruction for a very special group of young people. Some are preparing to receive their 'first holy communion.' Others already receive the sacrament regularly but their parents decided that they would benefit from additional instruction in the meaning and the nature of communion. Some speak Spanish at home. Others speak English at home. This will be a joy-filled celebration for all of us as we acknowledge the accomplishments of those who have completed the class and come together with our brothers and sisters in a festive liturgy.

3:00PM Ten young people from St. Peter's will renew their baptismal vows and recommit themselves to Jesus Christ in a joyful service of Confirmation at 'our other church', Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. The Rt. Rev. George E. Cuncell, Bishop of New Jersey, will preach, confirm, and celebrate and a joint choir will offer praise to God through the gift of music. A reception will follow in Synod Hall. All members of St. Peter's are invited to this wonderful celebration.

Sunday, June 19 *Father's Day*

Summer schedule begins

7:45 Holy Eucharist

10:00 Music Ministry Celebration

Sunday, June 26 *Baccalaureate*

Graduating High School Seniors will be honored.

Selected Graduates will address the congregation at both services. Special prayers will be offered for graduates at 10:00 service.

Summer Discussion Series - *The Faces of Jesus in Freehold, NJ*

You are invited to attend a program where we will explore how Christ is present in our lives here in Freehold. Each week we will take a major theme of ministry and look at how Jesus ministers to us and how we bring that ministry to the community. The program will meet on Sundays between services extending over a 5 week period. However, even if you are only able to attend once you will be more than welcome. The program will be facilitated by Ted Foley, our intern from the School for Deacons. Our first session will meet on July 10. The topic will be - *The Jesus who feeds us. Join us!!*

Relief for Victims of Tornadoes

Over the course of the last few weeks, we have heard news stories about the devastation that severe weather has wreaked in the Central and Southern parts of our country. Many have wondered, "What Can I Do To Help?" One of the simple ways that you can assist in the relief effort is by giving to Episcopal Relief and Development. This organization, formerly known as The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, partners with organizations and agencies already present 'on the ground' at disaster sites. Working closely with previously existing entities, including Episcopal Churches, schools, and Social Service Agencies, ERD is able to respond rapidly and with very low overhead. More information is available at their website <http://www.er-d.org>, where you can make an online donation via credit card.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

You may be eligible to receive checks that you can spend this summer on fresh fruits and vegetables!!

The NJ Department of Health and Senior Services is concerned about nutrition. Therefore, they are issuing checks that can be spent on fresh fruits and vegetables at: *Freehold Farmer's Market* - will have vendors that accept these checks. Starting July 8 through mid-October, the Farmer's Market is held every Friday at the Hall of Records Plaza from 11 AM - 3 PM.

And at participating farm stands including:

Clayton Family Farm - 125 Monmouth Road, Freehold,

The Farm - 3 Gully Road, Freehold, NJ

Rifkin Farms - 98 Smithburg Road, Manalapan

Are You Eligible To Receive Farmer's Market Checks? Most WIC recipients are eligible and Seniors (at least 60 years old) who meet the income guidelines are eligible.

What To Do Next?

WIC recipients please contact your Monmouth County WIC office at VNA of Central Jersey (732-471-9301 or 732-224-6974)

Seniors should contact the Office of Aging, 21 Main and Court Center, Freehold (732-431-7450)

To my dear friends and family at St. Peter's:

Many of you contributed to my efforts to raise funds for micro-loans to benefit impoverished women in Northern Ghana. This effort was to benefit a network of communities involved in the RUSODEF Project, a locally-run non-profit organization that my class at the Washington Semester Program was able to assist and visit on our trip to Ghana. With your help, my group and I raised \$830 in loans for the RUSODEF women! It was a highly successful fundraising effort that will benefit the recipients' families for years to come.



My class and the women accepting micro-loans in a RUSODEF village

While we were there, we were able to meet the group of women who would be receiving your donations. The women were well organized, with self-elected leaders, and their confidence and strength needed no interpreter to translate. Such a group of women with financial authority is rare in the region, and my professor explained that this gift would be hugely empowering for them and change the perception of women in their villages. As we played with their children, helped them draw water from their reservoir and laughed with them, I saw how our donation shored up their ability to face difficult odds with dignity and respect.



Making ground-nut oil, a microfinance initiative



New opportunities- all smiles!

My heart goes out in thanks to everyone who showed such support for me and for this project- I truly believe that together we made the world a little smaller and extended the love of St. Peter's community even to the furthest corners of the globe. Blessings and peace to all of you and, as the RUSODEF women would say to you if they were able, thank you.

Sincerely,

Anna Tweten

By the Grace of God
The Right Reverend George E. Councill
Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey
will
Orlain

The Reverend Lisa Ann Hoffman

to the
Sacred Order of Priests
Thursday, the thirtieth of June
Two thousand and Eleven

7:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Church
33 Throckmorton Street
Freehold, New Jersey

Your Prayers and Presence are requested.

Clergy Red Stoles

Sayreville Middle School
Educating Today's Learners to be Tomorrow's Leaders

800 Washington Road
Parlin, New Jersey 08859
732-525-5290
www.sayrevillemiddle.net

Donna Jakubik, Principal
Alan Squitieri, Vice-Principal
Stacey Maher, Vice-Principal

St. Peter's Thrift Shop
47-49 Throckmorton Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

January 14, 2011

Dear Sylvia Johnson and Father Frank,

I am writing to thank you for donating holiday decorations for our 2010 Winter Fundraiser Project. The students from Sayreville Middle School made and decorated holiday wreaths from scratch and raised \$1085.00 for the Ronald McDonald House of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Your donation was an integral part of the students' service and learning experience. While making the wreaths, they learned how to interact within a task group by working on a common product/goal, give and receive feedback, recognize the value of specific skills, and manage conflict.

Thank you again for your support and "Happy New Year!"

Sincerely,



David A. Fischer, MA, LPC
School Counselor

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]