

# The Peppercorn

St. Peter's Newsletter

September 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

Maybe you know, or maybe you remember hearing an important detail about my past: for six years of my adult life I was a high school teacher. So for me -- as for most folks who are or who have been teachers -- September is a very special time of year. Just as the days are beginning to shorten, the temperatures are beginning to drop, and the first suggestion of the change of seasons is in the air, there is a time of new beginning. New backpacks, clean and unused notebooks, fresh pens and pencils and pencil cases, and new textbooks -- all of these are signs of the beginning of a new school year. Even though my career in education ended over 25 years ago, and even though my own children are now adults, I still miss all that a new school year brings.

But I don't miss teaching and I don't miss learning. It's not that I'm glad that phase of my life has ended. Nor is it that I don't want to teach. Nor is it that I am done with learning. I don't miss teaching and I don't miss learning because I am still engaged in both. The reality for all of us Christians is that we are always teachers and we are always learners.

Consider the words of St. Francis of Assisi, who once said something to the effect that 'your life may be the only gospel that your neighbor ever reads.' By our words, and by our actions in everyday life, we teach others the meaning of the gospel. In what we say and in what we do we communicate the spiritual truth of God in Jesus Christ. If we live lives of humility, tranquility, and generosity, we teach those around us -- our children, our other family members, co-workers, neighbors, strangers, and friends -- that Jesus Christ is humble, peaceful, and generous. If we speak harshly, with words of judgment, then we teach others that God is harsh and judgmental. If we practice forgiveness and peace, then we reflect the forgiving and peaceful nature and character of our God, and we teach others by our example what the God whom we serve is like.

At the same time, we are all learners. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, and a disciple is, in fact a learner. We are something like apprentices or trainees, studying before a master craftsman -- trying to understand and or imitate the model of an experienced instructor. That instructor, of course, is our Lord Jesus Christ. If we are attentive to Jesus Christ, we can learn how we human beings were made, and how we were meant to live. And, of course, like apprentices, we all learn by making mistakes. None of us will perfectly follow our Lord's example. None of us makes it to the 'honor roll' of Christian learning with straight 'A's. At some time or another (for some of us daily!) we will each fail in charity, in patience, in generosity, and in love. And at those points we learn from the master teacher the most important lesson of all: forgiveness. God is merciful and compassionate, and out of that boundless mercy and compassion, God offers us forgiveness.

It reminds me of a television cartoon of many years ago, sponsored, I think, by the National Council of Churches. The main character in the cartoon was a grizzled old ranch owner, who dealt with trespassers, cattle rustlers, and those less fortunate in society the same way. Whenever they were caught, his response was always the same: "Hang him- it will teach him a lesson " The rancher's callous behavior continued for years until, one day, the ranch owner went to meet his maker. As he stood before the Judgment Seat of God, he realized with much fear and trepidation how mercilessly he had treated others who were only trying to survive. Finally, judgment from "above" was pronounced on the ranch owner. The voice of God is heard to say: "Forgive him- it will teach him a lesson".

That's a lesson I want to learn well myself, so that I can teach it well, and pass it on together. Please join me. I think I just heard the bell for first period...

Peace and Blessings,

Frank+

### **Got mail?**

Many of us receive unsolicited items in the mail. If you have no use for calendars, greeting cards of all kinds, blank note cards and note pads, please donate them to us. There is a collection box in the Narthex which will remain there until mid-November.

Our hope is to fill bags with a calendar, a variety of cards, a pad and a pen and donate them to one or two county-operated nursing facilities.

Thank you in advance for your support.  
Questions? Call Sue Spencer @ 732-431-4818

### **Sunday School Teachers Needed**

*Teach a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Prov. 22:6*

What better way to do this than join our Sunday School team as a teacher? We are anticipating several openings for this coming year, and we need you! Share your love of Christ with the youth of our Parish. No experience is necessary, curriculum is provided. It takes a small amount of planning time during the week, and less than one hour on Sunday morning. Almost any grade is possible, so any age you feel comfortable with could be possible. If you have a partner that you might be most comfortable teaching with, ask them too! Contact Lori Itinger at [schmorg@aol.com](mailto:schmorg@aol.com) or Mark Willis at [mrwillis@optonline.net](mailto:mrwillis@optonline.net), or see us in Church or coffee hour!

### **Open Door After-School Program**

It's so satisfying . . . there is such self-worth when you get involved in a volunteer activity, as Sandra Day O'Connor said. You can volunteer at the Open Door After-School Program to help children with their homework, starting in October and continuing to early May. Some of our helpers go away in the winter, and we can work with that. Adult and high-school volunteers are needed.

The children in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades at Freehold Borough schools, who are recommended by their teachers as needing help, come to St. Peter's parish house on Throckmorton Street, across from the bus station in Freehold., Monday through Thursday afternoons. From 3 PM to 4:30 PM we help with homework is done. Volunteers choose the day they want to help.

An orientation for new volunteers will be on Friday, September 30, at 3:30 PM at St. Peter's parish house (next to the church). The After-School program, sponsored by the Open Door organization, begins the first week of October. Call Joan Vastbinder, 732-462-9598, to offer your help in this worthwhile activity.



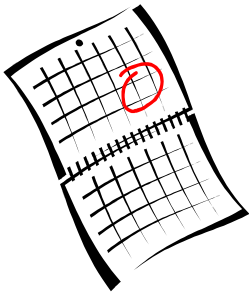
Extraordinary musical artists performing in a historic and intimate venue in the heart of your downtown.

For more information about the season, the artists, the venue and to purchase tickets visit [DowntownConcertSeries.org](http://DowntownConcertSeries.org).

For a limited time only purchase an Early Subscription to all four concerts for only \$60. From August 27, 2011 through September 24, 2011 you can purchase a Season Subscription to all four concerts for \$70.

Concert tickets are \$20. Discounted tickets for young people 18 and under are available for \$10.

All concerts begin at 7:30pm.  
Seating is limited. Order your tickets now.



## September Sunday Special Events

### Sunday, September 4

10:00 service -- on the last Sunday of our summer schedule, on the Labor Day holiday weekend, we hold our Seventh annual Hymn Sing!! Join us as we lift our hearts and voices in praise to God, offering our favorite hymns and praise songs. Special attraction: no sermon at the 10:00 service on that day!

### Sunday, September 11 *On the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11, special prayers will be offered at each service.*

**Please remember that on that date, we return to our regular 3 service schedule.**

7:45 a quiet service of Holy Eucharist

9:00 a service designed especially with families and young children in mind. Peter's Rock will lead some praise songs, and familiar hymns will be sung with organ.

11:00 a sung service of Holy Eucharist, with traditional hymns, organ, and St. Peter's Choir.

**Sunday School registration for children ages 3 - high school.**

### Sunday, September 18.

First Day of Church School Classes

Information about St. Peter's Special Capital Campaign will be distributed.

During the sermon, Father Frank will offer reflections on his recent trip to Ghana in West Africa.

### **Stewardship Campaign for 2012**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15: 1-2*

The Stewardship Committee is planning this fall's annual giving campaign, which starts on October 9<sup>th</sup>. In coming weeks, all parishioners of St. Peter's will be contacted. Each will be asked to consider their personal blessings and to give thoughtful and prayerful reflection on their financial gift to St. Peter's, which will enable St. Peter's to continue to effectively discharge its mission and ministry of loving, honoring, and following Jesus Christ.

The Stewardship Committee contacts are Kathy Whall and Esther Camm

### **Women of St. Peter's**

We will kick off our program year with a business meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> at noon in Classroom A,

downstairs in the Parish House. Please use the handicap ramp entrance. Of course we "do" lunch so bring a favorite dish to share. We will be discussing the upcoming year and can use input from all our members which includes YOU. Our group is part of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of New Jersey and every woman in the parish is a member of it. You don't have to sign up, learn a secret password or pay dues – you are IN just by being a St. Peter's person. Some members will be sharing information about an upcoming meeting with a representative from the Asbury Park Press for an interview about our cookbook.

We have been trying since the book was first published to get ourselves in the newspaper and the opportunity has finally come thanks to the ongoing efforts of Cathy Vedder. We will also be discussing our major fund raiser, the Annual Holiday Bazaar.

New ideas are always welcome. Although we are faithful Episcopalians, we hardly ever say "but we never did it that way..." so come on, join us and bring your ideas and your appetite. See you then September 7<sup>th</sup> at noon.



## Calling all acolytes! and anyone who would like to be an acolyte!

On Thursday evening, September 15, at 6:00 there will be a special training and retraining session for **ALL ACOLYTES** who serve at 9:00 and 11:00 services. Both experienced acolytes as well as new acolytes are strongly encouraged -- urged! -- to attend. Acolyte training is available to anyone in grade six or older (grade 5 for those willing to serve at 11:00 service). Note that there is ***no upper age limit***. No one is too old to serve at God's table in this important ministry.

Our session will begin in the parish hall with a pizza supper at 6:00PM and by 6:30 our training session will begin in the church. Dismissal will be at 7:30.

If you need more information in advance of the training session, please call or email Fr. Frank for more information at [rector@stpetersfreehold.org](mailto:rector@stpetersfreehold.org) or 732-431-8383.

## 270. (Two hundred seventy)

That's the final count - we served 270 at Family Table on the Tuesdays and Fridays of August. While it's really not about numbers, the number is impressive. We helped families feed themselves and their children with nutritious food. This is often difficult during the summer months when school lunch programs are not available.

However, more than numbers, St. Peter's actively practiced a ministry of hospitality to the community of Freehold. We opened our doors and said, if you're tired, come in. If you are hot, come in. If you are hungry or thirsty, come in. If you are lonely, come in. Our doors are open.

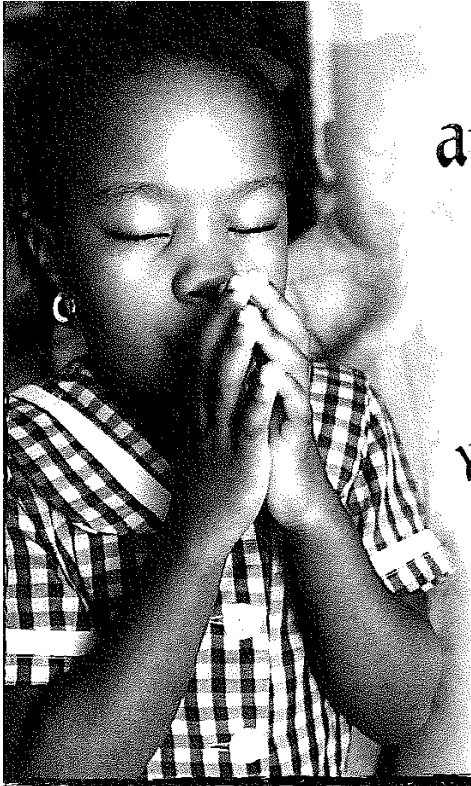
Thank you all for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure in support of this ministry. Let's put ourselves in the presence of the Holy Spirit and see where this ministry takes us.....

In faith,  
Ted Foley  
Deacon Intern at St. Peter's



**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.

The following is a copy of the citation received by St. Peter's Youth group in honor of their successful fund-raising project which enabled the building of a home for a family displaced by last year's earthquake in Haiti.



“Well done, good  
and faithful servant.”

Mt. 25:21

 FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.

Honors and Thanks

Youth Group at St. Peter's Church

as a

*Servant  
of the Poor*  
*Faith • Hope • Love*

### Thrift Shop News

Most of St. Peter's parishioners, and most of the bargain hunters who frequent the store know that St. Peter's Thrift Shop sells excellent quality, gently used merchandise. Now, thanks to the generosity of several local merchants, we have NEW and unused merchandise as well. Check out our fresh inventory of kitchen gadgets including whisks, wooden spoons, measuring scoops, non-stick frying pans, and sorting baskets. We also have some brand-new school supplies, including erasers, scissors, pencil cases, and paint brushes -- all at a fraction of their original retail price.

The shop has also received several cartons of brand-new women's wear, including skirt sets, blouses, and pants. There are a variety of sizes and styles, and all should be out on display within the next few days.

New inventory, new merchandise...it's all great. We could even use a few new volunteers at the Thrift Shop. Call Sylvia Johnson, manager, at 732-462-9264 for more information.

St. Peter's Thrift Shop, located at 49 Throckmorton Street (just down the street from the Church) is open Monday, Friday and Saturday 10AM - 2PM and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10AM to 8PM.

**St. Peter's Sunday School  
2011-2012 Sunday School Registration Form &  
Parent/Adult Ministry Interest**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following section with information on all children (infant to senior in high school) in your family. Also, indicate areas of ministry interest for each child (as applicable). **Appropriate grade or age levels are listed under each ministry.** Training will be provided.

Full Name (First, Middle, Last)	Birth Date	Baptized Yes/No	Grade Ministries		Usher (Gr. 3+)	Gifts (Gr. K+)	Acolyte (Gr. 6+)	Prayers of People Admin. (Gr. 2+)	Chalice (age 16+)
			Entering 2011-2012	Lector (Gr. 3+)					
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Please complete the back of this form for medical history/special needs.**

**Please indicate parents'/adults' areas of ministry interest in Christian Education:**

Wiggle 'n' Worship \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Substitue \_\_\_\_\_ Nursery \_\_\_\_\_ Music \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher Assistance

Please return this form to Lori Itinger, Mark Willis or to the Church Office by mail or placing it in the collection plate on Sunday.

Health History & Special Needs Survey

Please check the following:

- each of the following diseases that your child has had;
- each of your child's allergies (most especially food allergies);
- each of the illnesses/conditions with which your child has been diagnosed.

This information will remain confidential, but is necessary in order for the teaching staff to accommodate your child's needs.

**Diseases**

- Chicken Pox
- Measles
- German Measles
- Mumps

**Allergies**

- Animals  
List: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pollen
- Insect bites/stings\*\*\*\*
- Medicine/OTC drugs  
List: \_\_\_\_\_
- Plants
- Foods\*\*
- Other (Specify)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Chronic or Reoccurring Illnesses/Conditions**

- Ear Infections
- Heart Defect/Disease – Are your child's activities restricted?\*\*\*\*\*
- Seizure Disorder – Is your child currently taking medication?\*
- Asthma – Does your child carry a rescue inhaler?\*
- Hypertension
- Diabetes – Does your child take insulin injections?\*
- Arthritis – Does your child require special accommodations?\*\*\*\*\*
- ADD/ADHD – Does your child take medication?\*
- Asberger syndrome
- Autism spectrum/PDD
- Tourette's syndrome
- Emotional issues
- Other (Specify)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* Please list medications that your child is taking: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Please list all food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* What insects is your child allergic to and does he/she carry an "Epi" pen?: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\* Does your child have physical activity restrictions or need accommodations? – please explain: \_\_\_\_\_