

The Peppercorn

St. Peter's Newsletter

September 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

“What makes you ‘tick’?”

“What motivates and excites you?”

“What are your core values?”

I've been thinking about those questions over the past months, and decided it would be helpful to share them with you in this issue of the Peppercorn, as this community begins another program year.

As a priest and pastor, I hold three values in highest esteem. Together they form a vision of the kind of ministry to which I am called.

1. I believe in the power of worship to change lives and to draw human hearts into deeper relationship with God. I also believe that because every human being is made differently, that each one will respond differently to different aspects of the liturgy. Some are exhilarated and excited by the driving rhythms and the straightforward lyrics of a praise band. Others find themselves touched by the divine in the beauty and restraint of a traditional sung liturgy, led by a choir. Still others find any music at all a distraction, and prefer to worship in quiet. We at St. Peter's are profoundly blessed to have the resources to be able offer three distinct services to reach different constituencies. I feel that it is my calling as priest and pastor in this place to see that each of these worship services is not just maintained, but enhanced and enriched so that not only our own parishioners but also those not yet members who might still be transformed by the touch of God in a way congruent with their own personalities. At this point in our common life, sustaining a three-service Sunday morning format best responds to our needs as a community.

2. I believe in the absolute necessity of life-long Christian formation. In order for our hearts to be converted to Christ and our lives to be reshaped into his image and likeness, we need to know Christ. Regular study in community is the optimal way to achieve this end. Jesus taught publicly, both to the crowds as well as to a small group of his disciples. This is still the best model for learning the faith, and growing in the faith. As important as private devotions are for the spiritual growth of each individual believer, they can never take the place of learning in community, which is the Christian standard. This summer's Green Bible Study offering, as well as the Journeys group that has begun

meeting on Monday evenings are two excellent examples of this. Nevertheless, I am aware that for many of the members of this congregation coming out on a weeknight is simply impossible. For them, Sunday morning adult education in the Bible Café is the only opportunity for regular Christian formation. Sustaining this program in a way that allows for the widest possible participation of our membership offers the best opportunity to address this spiritual necessity.

3. I believe that Christ calls us to meaningful outreach. In his own ministry, Jesus consistently reached out to the marginalized, the poor, and the dispossessed. By virtue of our Baptismal covenant, we are called to the same work of witnessing to God's love in actions that promote justice, peace, and respect for all of God's creation. This congregation's physical location at the busiest intersection in downtown Freehold offers an unparalleled opportunity to reach our neighbors in need. I am committed to sustaining our outreach ministries, especially the feeding programs, the after-school program, the Thrift Shop and the other work that the Thrift Shop supports. I am further committed to a global vision that enables us to recognize our Christian brothers and sisters in the developing world have as much to offer us as we do to them.

These are the core values I remain committed to. While commitments can, do, and perhaps should change over time, at this point in my ministry I intend to devote myself wholeheartedly to these three areas.

Nevertheless, I cannot achieve these goals singlehandedly. We are the body of Christ, and I call upon each member of this body to participate in each of these ministry areas in some shape, form or fashion. Most important is worship – as the new program year begins make a commitment not just to attend Sunday morning services, but to make participate fully and actively. If you crave a time of quiet & serenity, you will want to choose to worship at 7:45. If you love traditional music and the offerings of a choir, make a commitment to attend 11:00 service. If you feel moved by the energy of contemporary music, you will surely be touched by the offerings of Peter's Rock at the 9:00 service. Make worship your first commitment on the first day of each week.

And make your commitment to learning more about the faith, and growing in the knowledge and love of Christ along with your brothers and sisters in this community. You will find that your own understanding is deepened as you converse, as you ask and answer questions, as you seek in God together in companionship with others.

And make a commitment to share the blessings that you have been given. From Outreach suppers to the Thrift Shop, from financial offerings to contributions of goods volunteering your time – there are many ways to witness to the love of Jesus Christ for those who are eager to hear his message.

Peace and Blessings,

Frank+



The Bookworm has gathered these recommendations for “good reads” from our St. Peter’s family:

Jackson Mingle recommends “**The Maximum Ride**” series by **James Patterson**, “due to its ability to pull me in and never let me go.”

According to Jo Ann Price, “I am just finishing up a really fine book: **The Color of Water**, by **James McBride**. The book tells the stories of the author, a black man who is a musician and writer, and his mother, a white, Polish, Jewish immigrant who marries an African American man; It's about two very unique people searching for their own identities in worlds that considered them "outsiders." The title of the book refers to the mother's answer to the son's question, "What Color is God?" *The Color of Water* is beautifully written, and I truly enjoyed it!

Phillip Esposito really enjoyed and heartily recommends **Kite Runner**, by **Khaled Hosseini**, **Pride and Prejudice**, by **Jane Austen**, **Angela's Ashes**, by **Frank McCourt**, and **1984**, by **George Orwell**, despite the fact that he *had* to read them for school!

Father Frank has several recommendations including: **How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents**, by **Julia Alvarez** – “a great story about a Dominican family and how they fled their home and the story of how they tried to build a new life in the U.S., and how familial, cultural, and traditional ties can make life complicated;” **At Weddings and Wakes**, by **Alice McDermott** – “wry and sad, a beautifully written story of an Irish-American family. McDermott’s richly drawn characters are credible and sympathetic, yet utterly ordinary, which makes for a deeply poignant story.”

John Irving's A Widow for One Year, “a novel about a family of writers and the way truth and fiction interact in our lives and in our art -- intriguing themes that kept me reading despite the rather boorish characters.” Fr. Frank adds: “Don't tell anyone, but I got a huge kick out of the vulgar and profane **Skinny Dip** by **Carl Hiaasen**. It is a rollicking good story!” He is currently reading **The House of Mirth**, by **Edith Wharton** – I love Wharton's rich prose and witty observations.” In addition, “You may hear some ideas from **Another Kind of Christianity** by **Brian McLaren** in an upcoming sermon.”

Donna Devlin has also been busy reading: “I'm reading a great book for parents called **The Blessing of a Skinned Knee**, by **Dr. Wendy Mogel**.” I'm rereading and reviewing a bunch of books on Mary for a short course I'm teaching. We, Episcopalians and Protestants, don't know a whole lot about Mary — including the legends and traditions that have built up over the ages — **Mary**, by **Sholem Asche**, **Christ and the Fine Arts**, by **Cynthia Pearl Maus**, **Alone of All Her Sex**, by **Marina Warner**, **Unafraid: Mary**, by **Francine Rivers**. Donna has also "discovered" a great series of mysteries by author **Sharan Newman**. The stories are set in the Middle Ages. The heroine is a young woman who left the convent after falling in love. Historical figures like Peter Abelard, Bernard of Cluny, King Louis, and Eleanor of Aquitaine are three dimensional lively parts of the stories. The books are entertaining in their own right and wonderfully informative.

Lark and Termite, by **Jayne Anne Phillips** was Deacon Catherine’s favorite book of the summer. To quote the NY Times review: It is “a novel that conjures with poetic ferocity the...unconscious, almost magical bonds shared by people who are connected by blood or love or memory.”

Soldier Boxes For Christmas

In cooperation with Hope Lutheran Church, St. Peter's will begin collecting Christmas and Chanukah novelties, snacks, and personal hygiene items for service men and women from October 3rd to October 31st. If you have a friend or loved one who will be in Iraq or Afghanistan at Christmas time, 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.

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 wonderful community wide effort to raise funds and awareness in the fight against world hunger. Youth and adult volunteers are needed to help with registration and hospitality.

Please contact Deacon Catherine at Deacon@stpetersfreehold.org if you can help out.

Acolyte and Lay Ministry Training in September

If you are an acolyte (youth or adult), or would like to become an acolyte, you are cordially invited to an acolyte training on September 16th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We'll start the evening with pizza and fellowship in the parish hall. Please call the office at 732-431-8383, ext. 10 to RSVP by September 9th. Or you can email Deacon Catherine Esposito at Deacon@stpetersfreehold.org.

Lay readers, ushers, oblationers (gift-bearers at the 9:00 a.m. service), and worship coordinators – youth and adults -- are invited to a special training on Thursday, September 30th. If you are currently involved in one of these special ministries of our liturgy, or if you would like to be, please join us for pizza at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Please call the office at 732-431-8383, ext. 10 to RSVP by September 23rd. Or email Deacon Catherine Esposito at Deacon@stpetersfreehold.org.

Shoe Fund-raiser for the Children of Cristo Salvador

We will be collecting money for shoes for the children of our sister parish, Cristo Salvador through September 5th. We set a goal \$1200.00 – enough for 100 pairs of shoes which has already been exceeded! If you have not yet given, please place your donation in one of the specially marked envelopes in the pew racks or in an envelope of your own and place it in the collection plate.

Women of St. Peter's

Who are the Women of St. Peter's? If you are a female member of the parish, 18 or older, YOU ARE!! Please come and meet with us, try us on for size at the first meeting of the program year, 2010-2011 **Wednesday, September 15** at 12 Noon downstairs in the Parish House, Classroom A. We enter by coming up the handicap ramp. There is no password, no secret handshake and even better no dues! We do have lunch and if you would like to you can bring a dish to share. In need of a suggestion - call Kathryn Robinson at 732.534.0641. Of course if you regularly attend our meetings we will see you there and look forward to renewing our fellowship. Come and support our new president, Carolyn Wilson and new treasurer, Jackie Jones. Along with Vice-President Cathy Weick and Secretary, Kathryn Robinson they will be guiding our group throughout the year. Bring your suggestions for programs and activities because we can always use some new ideas as to how to best serve St. Peter's Parish.

The Annual Bazaar will be on the agenda. Cathy Weick and Nancy Chambers have agreed to chair this important event. Plans are in good shape so we hope to hit the ground running. It is a tradition here and this will be the 74th Annual

Holiday Bazaar. Some recently unearthed paperwork dates the founding bazaar to a group of young married women founded in 1936, called St. Anne's Guild, whose 6 charter members, some of whom brought their young children along to the meetings, held an Apron and Cake Sale on December 4, 1936. According to the hand made program from that group's 25th anniversary celebration this was the first Annual Bazaar. We follow in the tradition but certainly have more than cakes and aprons to offer to our shoppers! This year the bazaar will be Saturday, November 20th and Sunday November 21st.

Join us on September 15th and hopefully you will enjoy the fellowship. Also mark your calendars, the October meeting will be on the 6th and November will be the 3rd.



Open Door After School Program

Looking for a rewarding use of your time? You can volunteer at the Open Door After-School Program to help children with their homework, starting in October and continuing into 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, Monday through Thursday afternoons. From 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. we help with homework and provide snacks, books, computers and other games when homework is done. Volunteers choose the day they want to help.

An orientation for new volunteers will be on Wednesday, September 29, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Peter's parish house (next to the church). The After-School Program begins the first full week of October. Call Joan Vastbinder, (732) 462-9598, to offer your help in this worthwhile program.

There are still a couple of places open in the EfM (Education for Ministry) group which meets in Christ Church Toms River. It's a very easy drive down the Parkway — about 45 minutes. We meet each Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 9:00. The group is well established and very lively as well as being diverse in age, experience and background. Our first meeting will be September 14 and our last session will be in May.

EfM is **not** for folks planning to go into ordained ministry although some have. It **is** for everyday people for want to explore their faith, study the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, learn more about the history of the Christian church, and learn to think theologically. AND IT'S FUN!

If you are interested in finding out more about the program which comes from The University of the South (Sewanee) talk with St. Peter's clergy members, Elizabeth Channon, Noelinda Cassell, or Donna Devlin, mentor for the Toms River group.

Information and an Invitation

September 19th to 26th is National Awareness Week for Charcot Marie Tooth Disorder.

CMT is the most commonly inherited neuropathy, My son Zack and I have CMT, as do numerous members of my family. There is no cure, and currently, no medical treatment. I say currently because there is great research going on, and we could be so close to something that could arrest the effects and maybe even reverse some degeneration. The CMTA in conjunction with the National Chemical Genomics Center of the National Institutes of Health have been testing over 300,000 compound combinations on CMT cell lines, and have narrowed the search to 810 compounds which show promise in reducing the enzyme production that causes the nerve degeneration. Ten of these compounds are already marketed and FDA approved medications! Through its STAR Initiative (Strategy to Accelerate Research), the CMTA has committed to raising and distributing \$10 million worldwide for CMT research, and the work at the NIH is a major recipient of these funds.

On Tuesday, September 21st, the CMT Support and Action Group of NJ is hosting a "Dine Out for CMT Awareness Night." Please join us at the T.G.I. Fridays in Freehold or Marlboro between 5pm and 9pm, and a portion of your dinner check will be donated by the restaurant to the CMT research program.

The fine print: The percent donated is based on food, before tax, and excludes alcohol. You do need to present a flyer to your server for your dinner to qualify for the donation. Flyers will be available in the Narthex or by contacting

Mark Willis at MRWillis@optonline.net.
Thank you!

NOTES AND NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE



Sunday August 15 was a beautiful and moving service, where St. Peter's Church welcomed 3 new members into the family of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. **Liam Paul Duncan Chlup** and **Lucas Gabriel Paul Baker**, cousins and grandchildren of **Harold and Marilyn Chlup**, were baptized along with Liam's mother, **Heather Elizabeth Orr Chlup**.

The **Mingle Family** won first place at New Jersey's 24th Annual Sandcastle Contest in Belmar. Out of 300 entries, their entry, a giant scrabble board, was judged Best of the Beach. Congratulations!

Our Condolences to the family of **Pauline Williams**, who died on July 6, 2010. Father Gideon officiated at services which were held at St. Peter's on July 10.

LA SANTA MISA

Spanish language services are offered at St. Peter's on Saturday evenings. Beginning on September 10, the Holy Eucharist will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel.