



# The Communicant

The Newsletter of  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Winter 2015

## Inside this issue:

Letter of the Rector	1
Worship and Spirituality	2
Education	3
Parish News	4
Stewardship	5
Interfaith	6
St. Peter's Haven & Blue State Productions	7
Anniversary & Anglican Communion	8

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## Letter of the Rector

Dear Sisters and Brothers at St. Peter's Church,

It is wonderful returning to St. Peter's after a three month sabbatical. The time away allowed me to do extra reading and to travel. In October, I spent a week at St. Gregory's Abbey, an Episcopal Benedictine monastery in Three Rivers, Michigan. The six monks at the abbey offer a ministry of hospitality through their Retreat House and two Guest Houses. I also spent a week with the Companions of St. Luke at Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri.

Carl and I spent a wonderful fourteen days touring the United Kingdom. Beginning in London, we made our way through the country visiting some of the great historic places from Stonehenge to Westminster Abbey, to Stratford on Avon and the tomb of William Shakespeare, through the Lake District, the home of Beatrix Potter and William Wordsworth, into Scotland and returning to London by way of York and Cambridge. We spent some additional days visiting Hampton Court, the favorite palace of Henry VIII, Canterbury Cathedral and Paris.

As my visit to the United Kingdom was coming to an end, I went on a pilgrimage to visit some of the earliest Christian settlements in England: Durham Cathedral and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Lindisfarne, a tidal island formed by the North Sea on the Northeastern coast of England, marks the place where Sts. Aidan and Cuthbert began their missionary work of introducing Christianity to the United Kingdom in the 7th Century. Durham, the ancient seat of the Prince Bishops of the city, remains the grandest Norman church in Europe and the burial site of St. Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede. While at Lindisfarne on Thanksgiving Day, I began to lose vision in my right eye. I returned to the Community of the Resurrection where I was staying and, after using the British Health System, discovered that my retina was detached. Carl and I collaborated to secure a plane ticket on Sunday and on Monday I was at Clara Maas Medical Center getting the retina attached. The following week, I contracted bronchitis which bordered on pneumonia and the doctor admitted me for a week to Clara Maas Medical Center. Following a second surgery on my eye, I began a period of recovery. I am so grateful for the prayers and best wishes of all of you and thank God that I was able to celebrate Christmas with you.

While I deeply missed all of you while on Sabbatical, I was grateful to find a break from the pastoral and administrative duties of the rector. Upon my return, Victoria Hollis commented that she had no idea of all the behind the scenes work involved in running the church. I am grateful to her and to Sharon for leading the community in my absence.

Peace.

Peter De Franco+

## Worship and Spirituality

### Epiphany Potluck Luncheon

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi. To bring this festival a contemporary twist, St. Peter's Church celebrates the day with an International Pot Luck Luncheon. Members of the Parish share dishes which reflect their ethnic background. Our Parish is becoming more diverse with a greater number of ethnic groups forming our family. Michael Petti shared his reflections on the Epiphany in a sermon at both services.

St. Peter's Church is living into the reality of creating a diverse community of persons who find our unity in Christ Jesus. That unity allows us to break down the differences that, in the outside world, might serve to divide us.

Our living into the mystery of God's plan for diversity allow us to enter into the world as agents of God working to establish God's reign among us.

### Installation of John Villanueva as Youth Bishop



On December 7, 2014, John Villanueva was installed as the 5th Youth Bishop at St. Peter's Church. The Youth Bishop serves as the Bishop during December. In Medieval England, youth bishops were installed on the Feast of St. Nicholas (December 6) and served as bishop until the feast of the Holy Innocents (December 28). The youth bishop was elected by the choir boys who sang in the cathedral choir. Our youth bishop celebrates the young people of the parish and offers them an opportunity to participate in the service by praying the opening collect, standing near the priest for the Eucharistic Prayer and giving the final blessing.

### 'Holy Peace' A Communion Meditation

By Carl Gincley

Do you recall how you felt the last time you received Holy Communion? The priest invites us to approach the altar with the words: "The gifts of God for the people of God". You wait in anticipation of your turn to receive Christ's Body and Blood. Very much like all the times you have received Communion in any church, you are about to experience something universal. You will enter into this moment of 'Holy Peace'. You feel serene and tranquil. You are polite, respectful and in harmony with others. You are honored to receive God's Gifts and you feel infinitely grateful. 'Holy Peace' is what we want for the whole world. For all people to coexist with one another, as if we are all in those elevated moments leading up to Communion. Peace, with respect in harmony. We honor God...and God's people.

harmony. We honor God...and God's people.



#### Blessed are the Dead who Die in the Lord

We pray for those who have died:

Robert Gringlinger, Brother of Gail Hughes

Agnes Hughes, Sister-in-Law of Gladys Hughes

Stanley Greenwood, Brother of Vinnette Greenwood

Dennis Apelian

### Education Activities

#### Holocaust Remembrance Sunday in Pictures

Article On Holocaust Sunday by Michael Petti on Page 4



#### Parish Staff

Clergy:  
 The Reverend Peter De Franco, Rector  
 The Reverend Lorraine Dughi, Pastoral Associate

St. Peter's Church  
 Wardens  
 Victoria Hollis & Sharon Van Cisco Boccadoro  
 Vestry  
 Class of 2015: Lissette Lombana, Ellen Lowney, Mayda Medina  
 Class of 2016: Mirna, Castro, Tom Hughes, Janet Wells  
 Class of 2017: Tara Fueshko, Gladys Hughes, Peter Lopez,  
 Treasurer: John Tauber  
 Assistant Treasurer: Jilian Fueshko

Delegates to Convention  
 Gladys Hughes, Betty Jo Wilkinson

Staff:  
 Nicholas Hopkins Organist and Choir Director  
 Tara Fueshko, Youth Ministry Director  
 Angie Rispoli, Parish Administrator  
 Marcin Iwanicki, Sexton

## St. Peter's News

### Settlement of the Proceeds of the Sale of Christ Church By Victoria Hollis



The committee from St. Peter's Church met with the Diocese on November 18th at St. Peter's to finalize the sale of Christ Church. After discussions, the St. Peter's committee and the Diocese agreed on St. Peter's receiving 62.5% of the proceeds of the sale (\$375k). This money will form the St. Peter's Church Trust. It will be invested in a Diocesan investment fund and will be used for the improvements to the church that were detailed in our 5 Year Plan. Interest earned on the investment will be split, with 4% going directly to St. Peter's operating account, and the balance being reinvested in the principal. The Wardens & Vestry will now start working on which improvement projects have #1 priority so the work can start in the Spring.

With pledging being lower than usual and the loss of the rent from the Pentecostal Church, this income will help keep St. Peter's running in the black and enables us to keep Fr. Peter as a full-time Priest. This income, however, is not infinite. As we use the principal to finance our improvements, the income to St. Peter's will decrease. Therefore, we still need to find ways to make up the financial difference between the costs of running our church and the Pledge & Market Fair income.

Thanks to the St. Peter's committee that finalized the settlement and to all the committee members in the past who laid the groundwork for this amiable solution. The meeting was left on a high note with both St. Peter's and the Diocese agreeing to move forward with a clean slate to work together in a mutually respectful relationship.

### Holocaust By Michael Petti

### Remembrance

### Sunday

In November 2014, St. Peter's Episcopal Church commemorated the Holocaust in a number of ways. Early in November, the church was home to a photographic exhibit entitled "Escaping Auschwitz", with photographs taken by Dr. Jacob Lindenthal, Professor of Psychiatry at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

On Sunday, November 9, 2014, Dr. Lindenthal came to St. Peter's to present a talk on Auschwitz and present the photographs he took of the camp. Dr. Lindenthal took with him a long-time friend, Mr. Alfred Strauss, a survivor of the Holocaust who, as a boy, jumped from a train taking him to Auschwitz, and was subsequently sheltered by Dutch Christians. Mr. Strauss spoke of his years in Nazi Germany, the "Righteous Christians" who worked to save his life and shelter him during the Holocaust, his reuniting with his parents after World War II, and his life in the United States since the war.

Dr. Lindenthal, who in addition to his many academic and religious pursuits, is an accomplished photographer. He shared stories of his family's and friends' survival, as well as their suffering and death at the hands of the Nazis. He spoke of the guilt he felt when he decided at some point in his life to use a Leica camera, long acclaimed for being the best in its time, that had been made in Germany during the Nazi era. After researching their involvement, and discovered that, in spite of their being in Nazi Germany, the German owners of the Leica factory did the right thing. Not only did they treat their workforce reasonably well, but they also — often at great personal risk — helped many Jews escape the depravity of the Nazis.

Dr. Lindenthal and Mr. Strauss spoke of sadness, devastation, death and destruction. They also spoke of hope, faithfulness, love, righteousness and resurrection. They shared with us that they were inspired at our attempts at St. Peter's to educate ourselves about a very dark part of our shared history.

The event was well-attended both by members of the church and from the greater community. Dr. Lindenthal made a generous donation of the photographs, originally on loan, to St. Peter's Church for future generations to use to learn about this devastating but important part of our history.

## Stewardship

### St. Nicholas Market Fair

Article and Photos by Janet Wells

The Church Hall, under the direction of Pam Fueshko, was decked out with snowflakes and candy canes hanging from the ceiling and lights were strung on the surrounding walls. Our gorgeous TALL decorated Christmas Tree, which was surrounded by large and small Christmas packages and decorations, was the center of attraction. The outside doors of the Hall were beautifully decorated by Sharon and Phil Boccadoro. All sale tables were abundantly filled with a variety of Christmas items and the overall appearance was a "Christmas Wonderland."

The St. Nicholas Market Fair this year started out with quite a few successful changes. The St. Nicholas Café was moved to the stage where food and liquid refreshments were set up with two tables for the seating of customers. The liquid refreshment table consisting of coffee, tea, juices, and apple cider was hosted by the Sunday School with proceeds going to the Sunday School. The food table of croissants, bagels, hot dogs, chicken & beef empanadas and rice was hosted by Victoria Hollis and Shannon Brand with proceeds going to St. Peter's Church and Relay for Life. This table also provided "take-out" orders. At the foot of the stage the M & M's sold a variety of delicious pastries and also did a booming business with Lillian McElwee and Doris Melia at the helm.

Jewelry and "high end" items were set up in the storage room and along one wall and was hosted by Vinnette Greenwood and Sharon Boccadoro. St. Peter's Haven had their table set up at the opposite end from the stage and was hosted by Loretta Hochmuth and Joanne Krudys. Tara Fueshko also had a table for the Sunday School. Large Christmas items (trees, outdoor and indoor decorations, stuffed animals) were set up in the Chapel under the watchful care of Carolyn Schwarz and Arliene Bird. Three vendors had their tables set up in the meeting room. Dot Scheirer, Dee Bowie, Ellen Lowney and Eleanor Gittens were extremely busy at the pricing and wrapping tables. Pam Fueshko expertly manning the cash register was later relieved from duty in the afternoon by Gladys Hughes.

Everyone really missed Carl Gincley's supervisory skills and up-beat personality this year as he was unable to attend due to illness in the family.

All in all it was an extremely busy and profitable day. The hard work from those who helped set up, those who worked that day helping customers, restocking tables, filling in where needed, and those who cleaned up, was greatly appreciated. Teamwork is what makes things successfully happen and we hope to have more volunteers in 2015.



## Interfaith Activities

### Interfaith Women's Gathering by Gladys Hughes

There is excitement in the air on the second Tuesday of each month as a group of women gather together to share coffee, tea and stories. You can find them either at the Ant Bookstore on Clifton Ave. or the meeting room at St. Peter's Church. The conversation is around issues of faith and what it means to be women of faith in our respective traditions of Christianity and Islam.

Our discussions have encompassed such topics as: the significance of the Hijab and mode of dress of Muslim women, the issues of raising children in our society today, ways we express our faith and current issues including world and social situations. We have begun to look at and learn about strong women in both traditions whose lives have helped shape our beliefs today.

We invite and welcome any woman who would like to join us for a stimulating morning of dialogue and sharing with our Muslim sisters.

### Lenten Ecumenical Services

St. Peter's Church will join with the Clifton Protestant Churches in a Wednesday Ecumenical Series. Each Wednesday at 7:30 PM, a different church will host a service. A preacher from a different church will preach on a section from the Passion Story according to Mark. A social event will follow which will allow us all to share time and establish friendships with members of other churches. The collection will be given to different ministries in which the various churches are involved. The series will conclude with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at St. Peter's Church on March 25, at 7:30 PM. The following is a schedule of churches, preachers and gifting organizations:

Feb 25 United Reformed Church, Preacher Rev. Peter De Franco, Offering Community Meal

Mar 4 First Presbyterian, Preacher Rev. Jeffrey Miller, Offering St. Peter's Haven

Mar 11 Athenia Reformed Church, Preacher Rev. Michael Weber, Offering Grandma's Place

Mar 18 First Lutheran Church, Preacher Rev. Peter Cary, Offering Family Promise

Mar 25 St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Preacher Rev. Richard Brihn, Offering Parish Nursing

## Interfaith & Ecumenical Events Sponsored by the Diocese of Newark

### Episcopal - Methodist Theology Day Thursday, March 5, 10 am - 2 pm - Drew University

Join us for an opportunity to learn more about the substantive theological issues that are being considered in our national ecumenical dialogue between ECUSA and the UMC including Baptism, Eucharist, Episcopacy and Racism. These are discussed in the latest Episcopal-Methodist document: "A Theological Foundation for Full Communion Between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church" which is still under discussion. Methodist and Episcopal presenters, Q&A, table discussion, lunch and Eucharist. Our bishop and the Dean of Drew will greet us at the Theology Day. \$10 registration fee, FREE for all students who pre-register. Registrants are asked to read the document in advance, and, if possible, the essays in: *That They May Be One?* ed. Brookhart and Palmer (Seabury) Contact the Rev. Lynne Weber for more info, or to register. [rector@atonement-tenafly.org](mailto:rector@atonement-tenafly.org)

### Christian-Muslim Dialogue - March 23, 7:30 pm in Paterson

The North Jersey Christian-Muslim Project (NJCMP) is the formal diocesan dialogue with our Muslim neighbors; our Muslim partners come from the Islamic Center of Passaic County in Paterson. Our Diocese has been in dialogue with them and other



Christians in the NJCMP since 1998 - for nearly 17 years! This forum will be on: "Mary the Mother of Jesus" Location: NJCMP, 152 Derrom Avenue, Paterson Time: 7:30 pm

Presentations, Q&A, Christian & Muslim prayers, and social time/refreshments. FREE. FYI, Women: Head scarves NOT required. For more information, contact the Rev. Lynne Weber, [rector@atonement-tenafly.org](mailto:rector@atonement-tenafly.org)

Behold! the angel said: "O Mary! Allah hath chosen thee and purified thee - chosen thee above the women of all nations."  
—Quran, sura 3

## St. Peter's Haven

### Thanksgiving Food Drive



St. Peter's Haven completed its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive serving over 300 families with a turkey and extra food items for their holiday meal. The Food Drive begins with a postcard appeal inviting people to provide donations of food or money to supply the items for the clients. The Food Bank of New Jersey offers discounted turkeys and the balance of the turkeys come from donations from the community. The community brought frozen turkeys to the Parish Hall on November 23rd. The balance of turkeys from the Food Bank arrived on November 24. The Turkeys and bagged food items were distributed on November 24th of Thanksgiving Week. Teams of Volunteers assisted in the distribution of the food. Clients tracked outside the Parish Hall for the early afternoon event.

### Winter Coat Drive – Coats Needed

Every Winter, St. Peter's Haven runs a Winter Coat Drive to provide new or gently used coats for our clients. A number of organizations in Clifton support this effort. For the 2014-15 Drive, we did not receive any coats from Jersey Cares, which provided us with hundreds of coats. This year, we are in need of Children's coats in any size. If you or members of your family have purchased new coats for your children or members of your family, consider donating the old coat to St. Peter's Haven. All coats are welcomed.

### Christmas Toy Drive

St. Peter's Haven successfully completed a Christmas Toy Drive providing Christmas Toys for the children of clients. The toys were given to the clients in large shopping bags with red tissue paper. The clients were grateful for helping their families make a festive day.

## Blue State Productions

### 2015 Productions for Blue State

Blue State Productions has announced its 2015 schedule of events. This year includes some familiar and some new musical and dramatic productions. February 13 14 will feature a musical event: The Main Event of Love, a mix of Valentine's Traditions and More.

Doubt, A Parable, will be presented on April 18, 19, 23, 24 and 25.

The Fall brings to the St. Peter's Stage the well beloved musical, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown.

The year will conclude with a presentation of an original musical, Joseph's Holy Family on December 5-12.

Blue State Productions is in residence at St. Peter's Church. For members and friends of St. Peter's the theatre company provides an opportunity to become involved in the production of Community Theatre. Please invite friends and family to follow Blue State Productions at [www.bluestateproduction.com](http://www.bluestateproduction.com)

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. In the weeks leading up to or on



Super Bowl Sunday, young people take up a collection (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice. Thank to Tara Fueshko who organized the 2015 appeal which collected \$650 in money and 500 food items.

The photograph features volunteers from the Clifton Chapter of the International order of DeMolay: Skyler Brammer, Joseph Hollis, Jonathan Brammer and Michael Hollis.

## Double Anniversary Plans

### Celebrating a Double Anniversary in 2016

2016 will mark a double anniversary in the history of St. Peter's Church: In 1896, St. Peter's Church was founded and in 1966 the present St. Peter's Church was constructed. Plans are underway to mark this double anniversary. The parish will begin the celebration in 2015 with a series of liturgical celebrations taken from the 1896 and 1928 Books of Common Prayer. Worship services at St. Peter's came from these two prayer books. The anniversary will focus on a theme and a logo:

### We Built a House Where All Are Welcome

1966-2016 Fifty Years in this Church  
1896-2016 One Hundred Twenty Years  
as God's Church

### Thanks Be To God



Tara Fueshko, St. Peter's Resident Historian and Ph.D. Candidate, is working on historic documents that record St. Peter's past. She has discovered various newspaper articles as well as materials published by St. Peter's Church to celebrate past anniversaries.

Tara will organize a project to reprint the St. Peter's Church Recipe Book. Not only will the book have recipes from previous editions of the book but will invite members of the parish to contribute new recipes. On February 22, Tara is asking members of the parish to bring in old and new recipes which she will scan for the Anniversary Edition of the St. Peter's Recipe Book.

Tara will chair a Planning Committee which will schedule dates in the Anniversary celebration. The Parish will sponsor an event where previous members of the parish as well as clergy who served at the parish will be invited to join in a Holy Eucharist and banquet.

The committee will organize a main event which will involve both a liturgical celebration as well as a gala dinner. The committee will look for names and addresses of former members of the parish.

### The Archbishop of Canterbury Condemns Attacks against French Newspaper

[Lambeth Palace] Following the terrorist attack Jan. 7 at the Paris offices of the satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "This is an act of the most extraordinary brutality and barbarity. This violence is demonic in its attack on the innocent, and cowardly in its denial of the basic

## The Anglican Communion



human right of freedom of speech.

"The people of France, a country in which I have lived, which I know and love, will rise courageously above the challenge of this vile attack and continue to demonstrate strength and confidence arising out of their great history.

"Our prayers and thoughts are especially with those who have been killed and injured and their families. I pray also for those involved in pursuing the terrorists."

### Rt. Rev. Libby Lane — First Woman Bishop ordained in the Church of England

On January 11, 2015, the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, ordained the Rt. Rev. Libby Lane as Bishop, the first woman to be ordained a bishop in the Church of England. Bishop Lane will serve as the Bishop of Stockport. The Church of England changed its Canon Law to allow for the ordination of women as Bishops. Some conservative members of the Church of England do not believe that women should be ordained. One such person, at the appropriate time in the ordination rite, expressed his objection. Archbishop Sentamu replied that since the Church of England allows for the ordination of women, the rite would continue. Bishop Lane was ordained in the historic York Minster, the largest Gothic Church in Europe.

